

صباحنا من الاجل

Tuesday April 2 1996

Algeria L 250	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Oman OR 1.00
Andorra FF 10	Hungary F 200	Pakistan P 70
Australia A\$ 26	Iceland IS 155	Poland Z 5.70
Austria S 13.50	India Rs 25	Portugal E 200
Bahrain B 1.00	Israel NIS 9.00	Qatar QR 5.00
Belgium BF 60	Italy L 2,000	Romania US\$ 2.00
Bulgaria B 1.50	Jordan JD 1.25	Saudi Arabia R 10
Croatia KN 12.50	Korea K\$ 150	Slovenia S 1.70
Cyprus C 1.00	Kuwait KD 0.50	Spain P 200
Czech Republic KC 45	Latvia US\$ 2	Sweden SK 15
Denmark DK 15	Lithuania US\$ 2	Switzerland SF 3
Egypt E 15.00	Luxembourg LF 45	Thailand B 80
Finland FM 11	Malaysia M 2.00	Denmark D 11.70
France FF 10	Netherlands G 4.00	Turkey TL 100.00
Germany DM 3.50	Norway NK 15	Ukraine US\$ 2.00
Greece G 350		USA US\$ 2.75
		Zimbabwe Z\$ 2.00

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,516

**Montana: another Waco?**

## America's new civil war

G2 with European weather



**Looking for the feminist middle ground**

## What do women want?

G2 pages 12/13

**Education**

## Have students become squares?

G2 pages 10/11



The wife of the Birmingham pensioner Charles Stanton, who yesterday lost an 18-year legal fight with neighbours over a 25ft-high garden hedge, speaks to reporters through her letterbox. Beating about the bush, page 3 PHOTOGRAPH: BEN HEAD

## Europe-wide offensive after embarrassing rulings

# Ministers seek curb on rights

**Michael White**  
Political Editor

**T**HE Government has launched a diplomatic offensive across Europe aimed at garnering support to curb the powers of the European Court of Human Rights after a series of embarrassing rulings against Britain.



**High profile reverses that provoked action**

**T**HE UK has been found guilty of 38 human rights violations out of 79 cases — a worse record than any other nation. Another 14 cases are pending.

- March 1996: Journalist wins fight to protect secrecy of sources.
- February 1996: Court rules Michael Howard has no right to specify term to be served by child killers.
- September 1995: Court rules against government over SAS Gibraltar shootings of three IRA terrorists.
- January 1995: Court rules

informally the names of any nominees as judges for the court before they are tabled" so that their views can be taken into account.

The Government argues that the court's doctrine of the margin of appreciation already gives weight to national diversity, particularly on those moral and social issues where the view of what is right may legitimately vary.

It wants that doctrine applied more consistently with "full regard paid to decisions by democratic legislatures and to differing legal traditions".

Long-standing laws and practices should be respected — even when they are "manifestly contrary" to the convention.

The court is not linked to the EU and its judicial machinery, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Hugo Young, page 9

## Police win stop and search power

**Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent**

**S**WEEPING police powers to stop and search in the streets are to be extended from Northern Ireland to mainland Britain in a surprise five-part package to be rushed through the Commons today with Labour front bench support.

As many as 25 Labour backbenchers are likely to defy Tony Blair, arguing that the emergency measures, to be introduced by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, are a draconian return to the discredited SIS laws.

The Liberal Democrat deputy leader, Alan Beith, said his party would vote against the guillotine, claiming that railroading such a complex bill through Parliament in one day was bound to lead to "defective and ineffective law".

Mr Howard first told Opposition parties last Thursday of his plans to rush the amendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Act on to the statute book.

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, has been given intelligence and police briefings to convince him that the new powers must be on the statute book by Easter.

Intelligence sources believe the IRA are transporting incendiary devices as small as cassettes and may be considering a return to violence after a buyback in Southern Ireland today in which Sinn Fein are likely to do badly.

Mr Straw has subsequently held intense consultations in an attempt to persuade the rebels, including the former shadow Northern Ireland secretary Kevin McNamara, from voting against the measures. But he appears to have failed.

In the Commons, Mr Howard said the proposals had been sought by the police after the end of the IRA ceasefire. He added: "We face a clear threat from terrorism. It is the Government's duty to take every step possible to meet that threat."

The package will give police powers to stop and search any pedestrian, including shoes and outer clothes.

Any policeman will be able to search hat, clothes, gloves, or outer coat, whether or not he has grounds for believing the pedestrian is carrying a terrorist-related device. Refusal to co-operate could lead to a six-month jail sentence.

At present, the police have powers to search pedestrians' baggage, or search an individual in a vehicle.

The police will also have

## Hogg begs EU for beef cull cash

**Julie Wolf in Luxembourg, Patrick Wintour and Owen Bowcott**

**T**HE Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, yesterday pleaded with the European Union to foot 80 per cent of the bill for slaughtering up to 4.7 million British cows in the next six years with the aim of eradicating BSE.

At an emergency meeting of EU farm ministers in Luxembourg, Mr Hogg outlined plans to slaughter all cattle aged over 30 months when they come to the end of their working lives, and to remove their meat from the food chain.

The accelerated culling would involve the deaths of 15,000 cows a week and is expected to cost as much as \$5 billion. Further selective culling is also contemplated.

If the EU financed 80 per cent of compensation to farmers, Mr Hogg said, the government would pay the rest. It would be a "significant measure which would go a long way to removing the problem", he said.

But despite Mr Hogg's call for the ban on exports of British beef and beef products to be lifted "as quickly as possible", EU countries yesterday

indicated that more radical action was required.

European farm ministers ruled out an early end to the export ban. "It should be lifted when we have a total guarantee that there is no risk. It is difficult to imagine that this will be in the next 24 hours," the French agriculture minister, Philippe Vasseur, said.

Several farm ministers viewed Britain's proposal for 80-per cent EU funding as merely an opening bid. "It's a basis for discussion," the French minister said.

The German minister, Johann Borchert, said the EU's participation in Britain's programme should be similar to the 50-per cent to 70-per cent given to Germany and other member states to combat recent epidemics of swine fever.

At Westminster, John Major said the Government was considering a novel way of identifying cattle with BSE, or those most susceptible.

Increasingly optimistic that confidence is creeping back into the domestic market, ministers are believed to be looking at ways to identify cattle that have been fed on grass, not recycled sheep and cattle offal.

Poor cows, G2 pages 4 and 5

## Britain's secret war in Bosnia

**Ed Vulliamy reveals how squaddies took on the militias at a cost never admitted**

**B**RITISH soldiers in Bosnia fought a covert struggle against all three sides in the conflict between 1993 and last year. Killing Croat, Muslim and Serb troops in far greater numbers than has been admitted by Whitehall officials.

The firefights were waged to stave off intense provocation, sniper and missile attacks on British patrols and convoys. The incidents were officially played down, described as "shooting incidents" or "exchanges of fire".

During a tour by one battalion, the Prince of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment, the fighting became so intense that its camp or "Brihat" became known as "Snootbat".

The Ministry of Defence is unable to give figures for opposing forces killed by British troops serving under the United Nations flag. Unlike in Ulster, soldiers are neither obliged nor able to verify a kill. One officer said: "If you fire at a sniper from 300 metres, you can hardly get out of your armoured vehicle and wander into a minefield ... You have to presume someone is dead because of the accuracy of the gun".

UN and MoD sources have estimated that 28 local militiamen were killed in central Bosnia between October 1992 and February 1994, when the British found themselves in the middle of a war between Croats and Muslims. But other estimates suggest the Yorkshire alone killed between 40 to 50 Croats, and up to 30 Muslims.

The Guardian today publishes the first detailed account of how British forces in Bosnia were forced into a combat role. Asked about the official number of "enemy" casualties — 38 — one British trooper from the Coldstream Guards, which succeeded the Yorkshires, said: "You can add a nought to that."

By taking on the militias, British units were the only UN forces in Bosnia to enforce the UN Security Council's aid delivery mandate. The Yorkshires set an unbeaten record of delivering to its destination every UN convoy that entered their terrain.

Other British operations were more secretive and more deadly. Undercover SAS patrols were moving unofficially behind Serbian lines, turn to page 3, column 1

Bosnia's secret war, page 7

**Inside**

**Britain**  
The first step to introduce competition into the water industry and end the last utility monopoly was attacked by Labour.

**2**

**World News**  
Uganda is being terrorised by the Lord's Resistance Army, which has killed 250 civilians and abducted hundreds more.

**6**

**City**  
A call by the European Commission for minimum global labour standards is set to split the G7 nations down the middle.

**11**

**Sport**  
The FA has ordered a partial review of ticket pricing after 10,400 fans snubbed the Ok-Turnford semi-final in protest at the cost.

**16**

**Comment and Letters**  
Obituaries 10  
G2  
Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; Television 16

9 770261 307323

**Join Labour Now**

Together we'll give everyone a stake in Britain's future

**0990 300 900**

(National call rates apply. Calls should cost no more than 30p per minute.)

£15 Standard rate **A60**

£5 Reduced rate: Student/unwaged/part-time/retired/on a government training scheme (where relevant)

£3 Registered rate: I am a levy-paying member of a trade union affiliated to the Labour Party. I have paid the political levy for the last 12 months.

(Name of union and membership number)

I enclose an additional donation of £

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) Total £

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ QM OF

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Please give your full postcode as it is used to determine your local party.

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order, payable to 'The Labour Party'

I accept the rules and constitution of The Labour Party

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this entire form to:  
The Labour Party, Room 408, FREEPOST,  
John Smith House, 150 Vauxhall Road,  
London SE17 1BR. No stamp required.

**Labour**



Sketch

The boy Major says 'e done well



Simon Hoggart

SATURDAY I took my young son to a football match. It's the first time you have to take the car whether they want to or not. ...

personal representatives will meet every week. ... An eternity of tedium stretched ahead. He made working in the EU sound like a season ticket for Arsenal.

Domestic customers would not gain □ Industry says Government using water as 'political weapon'

Plan to end water monopoly

Firms may be forced to compete

Rebecca Smithers

THE Government yesterday announced what it claimed was the first step in the gradual introduction of competition into the water industry.



Testing the water... Ministers say their plans would allow big customers to choose suppliers as the first step to competition in the water industry

How the changes will filter through

WILL water bills come down? Not for residential customers. Industrial users of more than 250 megalitres (about 55 million gallons) a year may be able to buy water cheaper.

Review

Learning to live on an actor's wits

Stuart Jeffries

Acting with Richard Wilson BBC2

THE PROSPECT of watching actors improvising is not a happy one. After all, an actor without a script is like a police officer without a lead.

vey a car crash. In one, an actor was required to invent a scene in a room with only a newspaper, a phone and a bottle of mineral water for props.

Captain Tyrant of Star Trek

Edward Pilkington

HE MADE women swoon with desire, staged the first interracial kiss on television, converted thousands of anoraked viewers on both sides of the Atlantic into besotted Trekkies and still had time to stuff the Klingons.



William Shatner: 'I thought it was all going rather well'

Thirty years after the first episode of the intergalactic series was broadcast, it has been revealed that Shatner was in a constant state of theatrical tension.

rather, James Doohan, the actor who played the chief engineer - went further, disclosing that if he'd had his way he would have beamed Shatner up into outer space and left him there. He called him a "big fathead".

Portable new light machine may help cure skin cancer

Chris Millihl Medical Correspondent

A NEW light machine the size of a household toaster could revolutionise the treatment of some forms of skin cancer - at a tenth of the price of laser therapy.

cancer cells, scientists said yesterday. The experimental device has been tried on more than 100 patients with different types of skin cancer and has achieved a success rate of between 80 and 100 per cent.

Police to get new stop and search powers

continued from page 1 full powers of arrest if they have reason to suspect a device is secreted on inner clothes, or find illegal drugs.

This will enable them to make widespread searches of lock-up garages in search of bomb-making equipment and bomb-carrying vehicles.

common law, but instead be given statutory powers to set up cordons around areas, as well as to impose total parking restrictions.

Advertisement for General Accident Direct insurance, featuring a cartoon of a hand holding a pen and text: NOW WE'LL REDUCE YOUR COMBINED BUILDINGS AND HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE BY 15%.

Handwritten note: صونا من الالصل



صوتنا من الامل

# Giant conifers given judicial pruning as garden feud over privacy ends after 18 years

Maggie O'Kane on a border skirmish



Michael Jones in his garden yesterday after a tree surgeon had taken off the tops of the disputed hedge

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROLAND LEON

## £100,000 beating about a bush

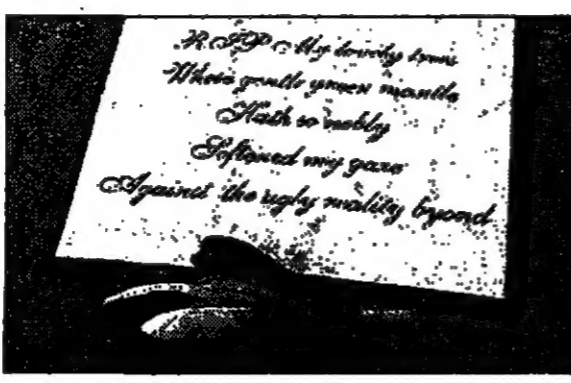
AT 11.04 yesterday morning a 34cc orange chainsaw began shearing the heads off seven giant garden conifers. It was the climax of an 18-year battle between two Birmingham pensioners — one obsessed with getting sunlight on to his prize-winning garden, the other with privacy.

It began with sharp words over the fence in Tillyard Croft and escalated into a £100,000 courtroom drama amid accusations of "peeping Toms" and hose-pipe attacks. The court finally ruled for a man's right to sunlight.

The vanquished 88-year-old, Charles Bernard Stanton, a retired engineer, marked the implementation of a court order to cut 12 feet off the top of his 25-foot trees with a cardboard coffin outside his front door.

Mr Stanton's epitaph to his trees read: "RIP My lovely trees, whose gentle green fronds have so nobly softened my gaze against the ugly reality beyond."

Beyond, Maureen Jones, aged 67, wife of the victor-



Charles Stanton (right) and the tribute to his trees placed on a mock coffin outside his house



### Cupressocyparis Lylandii

- The Leyland Cypress is the single biggest cause of gardening disputes between neighbours, according to research by the BBC programme Gardeners' World.
- It is the fastest growing tree in Britain and can reach 100 feet in the right conditions.
- It grows at the rate of three feet a year and is exceptional in that it grows all year round.
- The distinguished gardening writer Christopher Lloyd describes the Leylandia as an extremely useful tree "if you want to blot out your neighbour quickly."

ous Michael, also 67, served cheese and onion rolls and raspberry gateaux to the 30 journalists and six TV cameras who came to witness the final shearing.

"It's all a terrible waste of money but it was Mr Stanton who went into the courts in the first place. We didn't want this to be dragged into the courts. Mr Jones and I will not be bullied," said Mrs Jones.

Throughout the 1980s, Michael Jones, a retired teacher, watched with growing anxiety as Mr

Stanton's giant conifers overhanged his £100,000 home and garden.

Mr Jones, who held both first and third prize in the annual Bourneville Village Trust garden competition, began stealing into his garden at dawn, in a blue towelling dressing gown, for secret pruning sessions.

The police were called by Mr Stanton to deal with the "vandal" in the garden. But Mrs Jones gave the young police officers tea in her kitchen and explained how she was forced to

gather her strawberries and soft fruits under cover of an umbrella because Mr Stanton tried to hose her down through the hedge.

The Stanton's insisted they had planted the trees to protect their privacy from the Joneses who were watching them with binoculars from the first floor sewing room. Mrs Jones says her only sin was watching a rare albino starling in the trees.

Finally, Mr Jones lost his patience and sheared off the top 10 feet of the Stanton trees. Retribution was swift. Injunctions came flying across the fence for criminal damage and over the next seven years they notched up £100,000 in legal fees. The Joneses won the fight. The Stanton's were forced to pay costs.

"In 25 years in this job I've never seen anything like it," said Barry Kenwood, the tree surgeon who started shearing yesterday morning. "I agree entirely with Mr Jones. Everyone has got a right to sunlight in their garden."

Mrs Stanton told the Guardian through her letter box yesterday that her husband would not be making any comment.

"Yes, he is under stress, but this has been going on for years. Today is washing day, I will be doing my washing and we will be getting on with things as normal," she said.

The only question now is what will happen to the 10-foot tree tips. Mr Stanton has warned Mr Jones that he might build a bonfire and smoke him out.

## Missing toddler found dead

Boy drowned in rubbish-filled ditch, writes Duncan Campbell

THE body of the child who went missing from a travellers' site on Sunday afternoon was found in a 9ft deep ditch yesterday, 10 yards from where he was last seen.

John Bristow, apparently fell in and was trapped in the water under a pile of rubbish.

His body was found at 3.55pm yesterday by a police diver during a second search of the Running Watergate site in Lydd, Kent, where the 21-month-old boy and his family lived.

The child was reported missing on Sunday afternoon. There were fears that he had been abducted, and a large operation was launched by Kent police.

Divers, a helicopter, members of the family and local volunteers searched the area in freezing temperatures throughout the night. Among the places searched was the ditch where the body was found.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Felton of Kent police who headed the investigation said yesterday that the body had been found close to where John was last seen. The ditch was full of dirty water and rubbish, and it appeared that the child had been trapped by the rubbish.

Chief Inspector Felton said that the ditch was about 9ft deep and full of dirty water, old iron and rubbish. The body was fully clothed, and



John Bristow, found just 10 yards from where last seen

Felton. "He was found by a police diver who, as you can probably understand, is feeling a little bit traumatised at the whole process."

He added that his sympathy was with the family over this "very, very traumatic incident". He defended the police search operation in response to questions as to how the boy had not been noticed in the initial trawl of the site.

"What I would want to say is this: we have conducted an extremely thorough search," he said. "Last night officers were engaged until three in the morning in temperatures below freezing trying to conduct a search."

"When we last had the diving team here just imagine what the circumstances were like. The wind was howling, it was freezing cold and it was absolutely pitch black," he added.

## Blake sued over profits from MI6 memoirs

Alex Bellis

GEORGE Blake, the former double agent, should not receive money for his memoirs even though they did not disclose any secret information, it was argued in the High Court yesterday.

In a case which has far-reaching implications for all Crown servants who seek to publish autobiographical material, the Government claimed Mr Blake should forfeit all his profits simply because he broke the trust of MI6.

Mr Blake, who lives on a KGB pension in Moscow, is being sued by the Attorney General for £90,000 earned from No Other Choice, chronicling his life as an MI6 agent.

Philip Havers, representing the Attorney General, said that although the book was no breach of confidence — Mr Blake had given the Russians all the confidential information in it years before — he still had a "fiduciary duty" to his former bosses.

It is believed to be the first time the Government has made such a wide-reaching claim. In the Spycatcher case, when the Crown tried to prevent the former MI6 employee, Peter Wright, from publishing his memoirs, the House of Lords appeal found that Mr Wright's duty was one of maintaining secrecy.

As the Government is claiming only that Mr Blake breached trust, the case could — if successful — stop all Crown servants from publishing work without authority.

Mr Havers told the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Richard Scott: "As a member of the Special Intelligence Service [Mr

Blake] owed two duties which persisted after the termination of his duties to the Crown — a duty not to disclose confidential information — so as to make for himself an unauthorised profit. Secondly a duty not to use property acquired by reason of his position as a former member of the SIS — including intangible property such as confidential information — so as to make for himself an unauthorised profit."

Mr Blake, aged 73, did not appear and was not represented. But the Attorney General had asked Lord Lester to assist the court as *amicus curiae*, a rare appointment made only when important issues are involved and one of the parties is not represented.

Lord Lester argued that if a former security officer was barred from publishing his autobiography because he was employed by the Crown, then government ministers should also be stopped from publishing their memoirs. He said that, to sue for breach of confidence, the Government has to prove it is in the public interest to restrain publication.

Mr Blake originally received a £38,000 advance for the book, which came out in 1988. The Government acted too late to apply for this money, which was put in a trust for his two sons.

The further £50,000 owed by publishers Jonathan Cape was frozen by a High Court judgment two years ago.

In Moscow yesterday, Mr Blake said he was unaware the case was on. He said: "I have already written [the money] off in my mind... I don't really care any more."

The case continues.

## British units' secret war in Bosnia 'killed hundreds'

continued from page 1

weaving an intelligence web in preparation for the air strikes which bombed the warring parties to the table.

The UN secretary-general's special envoy to Bosnia, Yasushi Akashi, was perturbed to discover that the SAS was employed in an undercover war.

An SAS officer tells the Guardian how one unit was

stranded in the Gorazde enclave in April 1994, and stopped by a Serbian patrol. The patrol of 15 Serbs was wiped out within a minute of shooting by the SAS.

The SAS's operations became legendary among UN colleagues. A favourite joke among the French army's 24th Infantry Regiment around BiHac was: "If you get

injured, make sure it doesn't happen near one of those British ambulances."

The use of ambulances for intelligence work caused backstage argument at UN headquarters in Zagreb.

French soldiers recall one incident concerning covert "ambulance" teams around BiHac. An ambulance marked as belonging to Humberside

health authority had veered into a gorge and French troops tried to inspect the wreckage.

Two unburnt and unconcerned British soldiers in unmarked fatigues told them not to bother. Clearly, the French soldiers said, the "Humberside ambulance" had contained top secret material and been deliberately destroyed.

Modern Conservatives have never loved this court. Although a Tory government, under Churchill, built it and drafted the human rights convention it operates, it has been swept into the fear and loathing of all things European which have gripped the Thatcher and Major governments.

Hugo Young page 9

## New issue OUT NOW!



# "One million cash? It's just paper."



... Or so says Dolores O'Riordan of **The Cranberries**. This month, "Bono's little sister" opens her hobnailed pixie heart to Q — exclusively — and talks frankly of bed, bank accounts and bad boyfriends: "I'm pig-headed and stubborn and I love to do things a certain way."

**PLUS!** Rock Follies! From David Bowie to Dylan to Dalis Car, we name the 50 albums that should never have been made...

**ALSO!** Five hours of New York nookie with Sting, 60 years of singing, scandal and sorrow with Pavarotti, three weeks of transatlantic trousering with Oasis, and a deluge of debauchery with Led Zepplin.

**AND!** Celine Dion! Edwyn Collins! Sleeper! Tori Amos! TV Cops! Transistor radios!

**ADDITIONALLY!** In the world's first marinated reviews section: Mark Knopfler, ABC, Take That, Pulp and Tina Turner.



## Q Out now! NO NEED TO ARGUE.



# Inmate 'sent to court in a nightie'

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**PRISONER** in Holloway, Britain's largest women's jail, was forced to attend court last year wearing only a pink nightie because of a clothes shortage.

The prison's board of visitors reveals today that even basic underwear and shoes were not available for inmates after the management suspended the WRVS clothing store last summer to enable a new pharmacy to be built on the site.

"No alternative plans were made and a degrading situation developed... One woman attended court in a nightie because she had nothing else to wear. To date there is still no clothing provision, and many women are dependent upon the charity of staff and volunteers," says the annual report of the board of visitors for Holloway Prison.

Rachel Palmer, the board's chairman, says there has been a marked improvement since the Chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filthy, and a national scandal broke over the chaining of pregnant prisoners.

"Five or six black bags of rats have been taken out in the past few weeks. The rub-

bish has gone and more staff have been recruited, but the lack of basic clothes is a symptom of a service that has gone wrong," she says.

"It is a fundamental right of women to be decently clothed. It is basic to justice that they should be well presented for court."

The board says the clothes crisis was particularly acute for foreign "drug mules", the homeless, and the mentally ill who often arrived at the prison with only the clothes they stood up in.

The situation was exacerbated last autumn by staff shortages, which meant that even though some women had clothes sent in, they could not collect them because the parcels office was closed.

The report concludes that in 1995 the delicate balance between custody, care and justice, was tilted in favour of custody at Holloway, that "fundamental systems broke down, basic services were not provided and an oppressive regime resulted."

• **The Home Secretary**, Michael Howard, indicated last night he has given up his search for a private sector figure to take over from the sacked prisons director-general, Derek Lewis. Instead, he appointed Richard Tilt, who has been acting director-general.

# 'Cannibal dined on deception'

John Maffin

**HE** called himself Steele — David Steele. Not the bloke who told his Liberal followers back in 1981 to go home and prepare for government, but a pop star who enjoyed rather more success in the decade following his politician namesake's prize hyperbole.

He was really Paul Vagg, aged 29, and he claimed he was David Steele, bass guitarist with The Fine Young Cannibals. One of the group's finest ditties was Drives Me Crazy. Vagg certainly angered Jan Levine, record producer, when he discovered his act. Southwark crown court heard yesterday.

Vagg, of Bermondsey, south London, denies obtaining property by deception. Mr Levine had invited him along to £150-a-head La Tante Claire restaurant in Chelsea.

Among the music folk there was a journalist, Jim Brown. It was when he checked up on his tale that Vagg was unmasked.

But when he was arrested, Vagg told police he

had been using the musician's name for years. "To call myself David Steele is not an offence. What would be an offence is utilising that to obtain a benefit, and that is something I am 100 per cent confident I have not gone out to do."

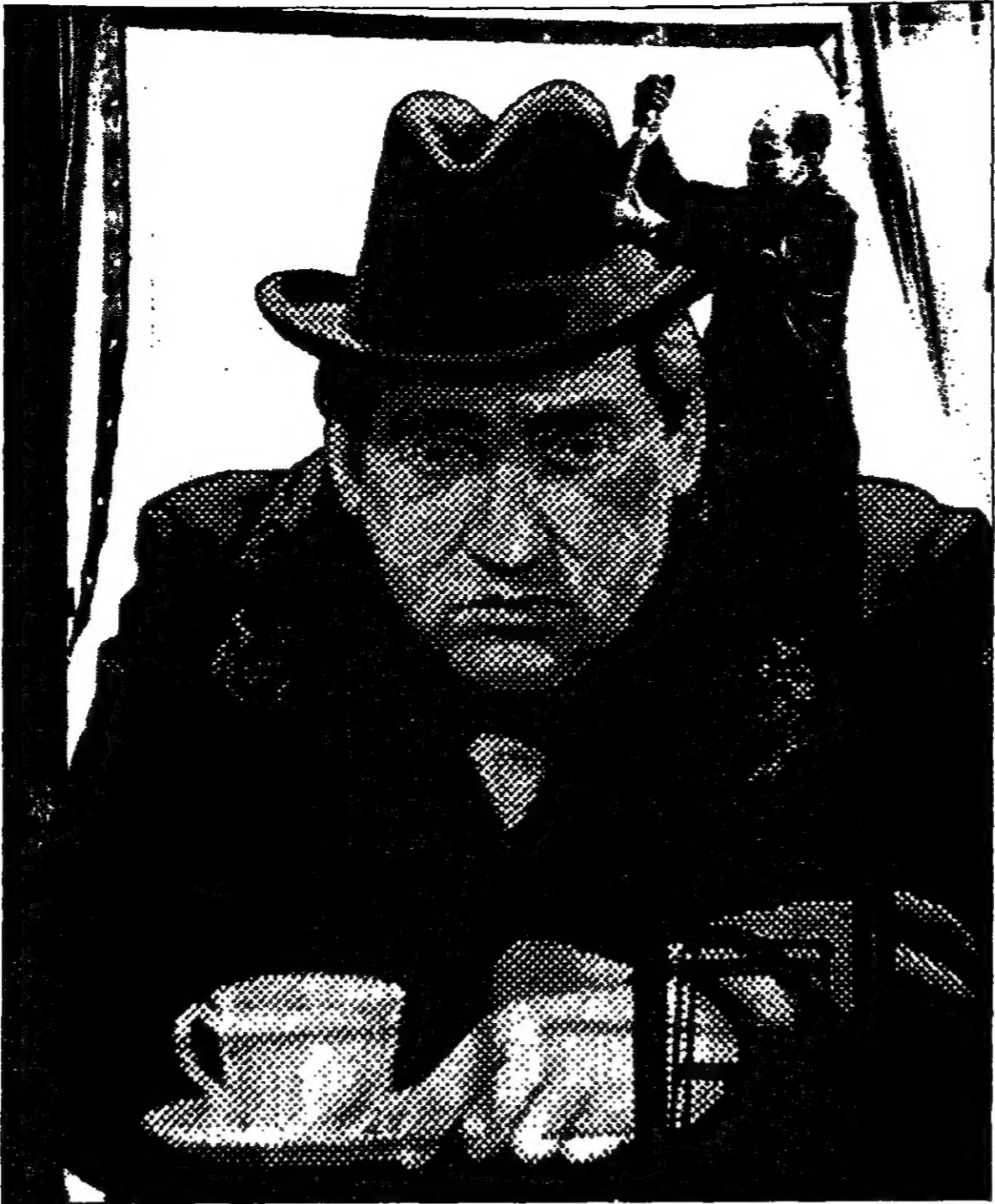
Peter Gray, prosecuting, said Vagg's deception began when he phoned Mr Levine and mentioned details of The Fine Young Cannibals. Vagg had suggested singers. Tests for one were fruitful.

Mr Levine, thinking he was dealing with Mr Steele, then arranged the restaurant visit.

Mr Levine told the jury he had liked the man he believed was David Steele very much. He had never doubted him. He had once asked for one of the group's albums. Vagg produced a copy of The Raw and the Cooked, pointed to a picture of Mr Steele, and said: "I've put on a lot of weight since then."

But Mr Levine admitted that Vagg had never asked for anything. He accepted he had had to persuade a reluctant Vagg to go to the restaurant.

The trial continues today.



Bruce Williams with his sculpture of Tony Hancock, to be unveiled in Old Square, Birmingham, on May 13. The tribute to the comedian was sponsored by the drug charity Turning Point and by Ansell's, the brewers. PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER DAMBER

# Sixth-form trio 'exulted' in attack

**THREE** middle class boys were last night pondering their future in a young offenders' institute after being sentenced for going on a drunken rampage.

Judge John Curran said sixth-formers Andrew Groom, David Vodden and David Willey "exulted" in an attack on a church caretaker and another man who came to his rescue.

Sentencing them at Cardiff crown court, the judge said: "There cannot be a separate law for those with intelligence."

Groom, Vodden and Willey were all pupils at Cardiff High School when they broke from their A level studies to go on a beer and cider binge last May after celebrating VE Day in a pub near their homes in the affluent suburb of Cyncoed, Cardiff.

As they walked home, disabled caretaker Eric Co-



Drunken rampage: From left, Andrew Groom, David Vodden and David Willey

bourne and Ian Birtle, a book-keeper, were attacked by the teenagers, the court heard.

Mr Cobourne, 50, was kicked in the face outside his church while Mr Birtle, 33, was knocked almost unconscious as he tried to stop the attack.

David Aubrey, prosecuting, said: "When they left the pub they were drunk, rowdy and destructive — and they were violent."

"They rampaged around the streets of this normally quiet suburb behaving like drunken hooligans."

"The three then came across Mr Cobourne. Mr Cobourne was verbally abused and then Groom threw a

bottle at his head, leaving him with a wound that needed several stitches."

He said that Groom, a doctor's son, laughed and told his friends: "My aim is usually that good."

The jury heard that Mr Cobourne was then kicked in the head by Vodden.

Mr Aubrey said: "This man had his head down, when Vodden carried out what can only be described as a football volley to his head. It's claimed Vodden then turned to friends and boasted 'Did you see that — his nose just exploded.'"

Asked why they had picked on Mr Cobourne, Vodden replied: "He was obviously

not a Cyncoed person, he was different."

Mr Birtle was attacked and then chased down the road before being kicked and punched by the youths.

They admitted violent disorder and causing actual bodily harm, but denied attempting to cause grievous bodily harm.

They were convicted of the charge.

Groom and Vodden were also found guilty of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm on Mr Cobourne. Groom and Vodden were sent to a young offenders' centre for two years while Willey was ordered to be detained for 18 months.

# Olympics bid boosted

### Rule change on lottery cash promotes sport and arts talent

John Duncan and David Ward

**THE** chances of the Olympics coming to Britain in 2008 were significantly increased yesterday with an announcement that the Government will make lottery money available to help attract top sporting events.

The bid is centred on a new £200 million national stadium — probably at Wembley — and lottery money will ensure that the cash-strapped British Olympic Association is not hindered in its efforts to bring the games to Britain for the first time since 1948.

Other changes announced included permission for lot-

tery funding for individuals, which will help to develop sports and arts talent.

The National Lottery has so far raised £1.7 billion for the five "good causes" fund distribution boards, with arts and sports receiving £300 million each. But until now money could only be spent on buildings, equipment and other facilities.

The Sports Council yesterday welcomed the changes, whose immediate effect will be a boost to Olympic competitors before the Atlanta games. "Competing at this level is almost a full-time job and we do not believe that representation should mean financial hardship," said Rodney Walker, chairman of the Sports Council.

"We hope that this will make it easier for those dedicated to their sport at regional and national level to train and compete."

Announcing the changes the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, said: "The new rules will provide a flow of funds directly to the young and talented, so that they can excel, pushing themselves to their own limits, inspiring others and bringing pleasure to the millions who will cheer them on to success."

The theatre world also also responded positively to the changes. Sue Reddish, director of the youth theatre run by the Bolton Octagon company in Greater Manchester, said that it would allow the Octagon, which has bid for £95,000 of lottery money not allowable under the old rules, to fund a youth worker to take theatre work to some of Bolton's most deprived areas.

# Victory for Bottomley in battle over charities board

**THE** Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, yesterday won a Whitehall battle for control of the National Lottery Charities Board and oversight of government policy on the voluntary sector as a whole, writes David Brynild.

The Prime Minister announced that responsibility

for charity matters, volunteering and almost all voluntary sector issues would transfer as soon as possible from the Home Office to Mrs Bottomley's Department of National Heritage.

The switch, a big boost for the department, means Mrs Bottomley will now have con-

trol of all five National Lottery grant-making boards.

Stuart Eatherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said the transfer of responsibility would give the sector a more focused approach by government and a stronger voice in Cabinet.

## CELLNET INTRODUCE FRESHLY SQUEEZED ORANGE.

### 60

minutes maximum for  
£29.38 on talk 60\*  
orange

### 125

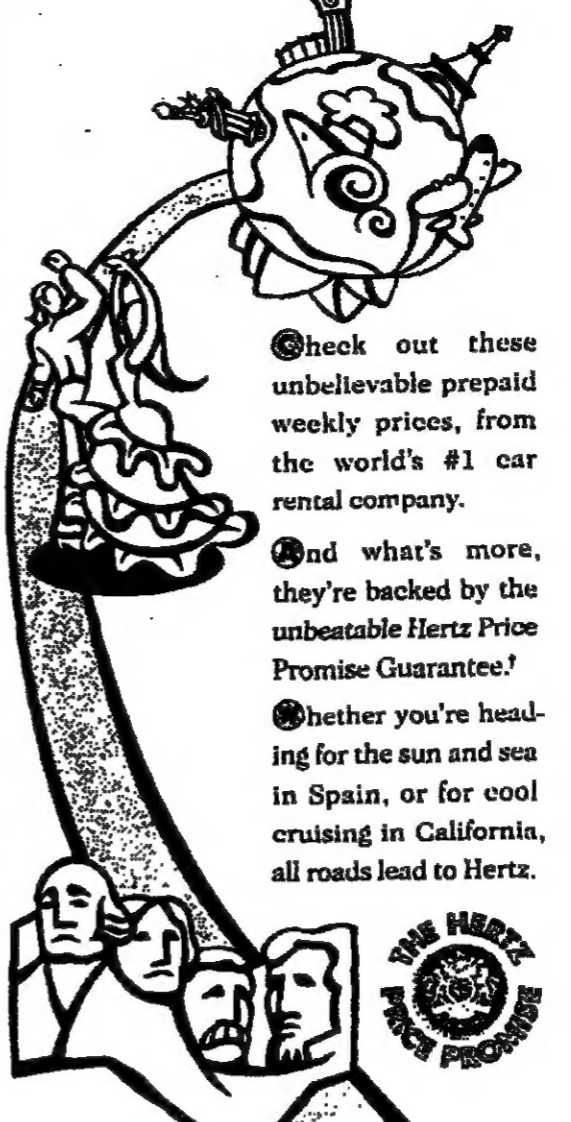
MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR  
£26.44 ON REGULAR CALLER PLUS\*  
CELLNET

RING 0800 21 4000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.

\*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 125 mins max of 60-peak calls. Airtime reduces when peak-time calls are made. Telephone Services Cellular Radio.

## Getaway from it all with our giveaway prices.



FLORIDA	£79*
SPAIN (MALAGA)	£100*
BOSTON	£119*
FRANCE	£193*

Plus special offers to Disneyland Paris

Alternatively, if you're going to Paris, why not ask about our magical offers with Disneyland Paris. Combining car hire with theme park tickets, all with the wave of a wand.

So get your holiday moving, simply call your local travel agent, or the dedicated Hertz Leisure Line (24 hours a day) on:

**0990 90 60 90**

Hire cars at lower prices.

سكنا من الاجل



صحة من الامم

Professor says public underestimates tough use of jail sentences

# Judges 'not as soft on crime as people think'

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE conventional wisdom that the courts are much more lenient than the public would like is challenged in research by a university professor.

The public do believe that the courts are too soft on criminals but they also underestimate the use of prison by judges and magistrates, according to Michael Hough of South Bank university, London.

The belief that the judges are "soft" underpins the white paper introducing tougher minimum sentences to be published by the Home Secretary tomorrow. The research, *People Talking About Punishment*, was financed by the Nuffield Foundation.

Half the public think that 50 per cent or fewer rapists are sent to prison. In fact 91 per cent of rapists are imprisoned.

Half thought that 20 per cent or fewer convicted burglars go to prison. In fact well over 50 per cent are jailed.

Professor Hough said the sentences that people advocate are often in line with current practice.

"Our respondents were, in the main, very punitive towards offenders. Where they advocated prison sentences, they often wanted longer sentences, and they wanted these served in full."

"This was marked for the more serious crimes which we considered, for rape in particular."

Many of those questioned

also proposed castration — "by no means frivolously" — as a way of dealing with rapists.

Among the widespread misunderstandings are that prison is rarely used; that rapists get suspended sentences and burglars and street robbers are fined or even cautioned.

The study recommends that the sentences need to be made "more transparent" so that people can understand how much time is served. It also says that the "more substantial misperceptions" about sentencing need to be corrected.

It says this task cannot be left to the media, which concentrates on the grotesquely lenient or punitive sentences.

The study criticises the courts for not giving a general indication of the "going rate" for a particular crime and says getting hold of such

information is difficult without a special run of the Home Office computer.

"Little wonder, under such circumstances, that the public has no idea of the going rate. Little surprise too, at the lack of any informed public debate over the severity of current sentences."

Professor Hough warns that public appetite for tougher punishment will never be satisfied by longer prison sentences as long as the underlying problem about the misperception about sentences remains unchanged.

There is a danger of getting on a treadmill of tougher and tougher sentences which would be politically difficult to stop.

*People Talking About Punishment*, Professor Michael Hough, is to be published later this year by the Howard Journal.

## Officers urge Home Secretary to block parole for police killer Harry Roberts

Duncan Campbell on cause of force's anger



Harry Roberts: 'The police aren't like real people to us'

**T**HE Police Federation has urged the Home Secretary to stop parole being granted to Harry Roberts, who was jailed for the murder of three police officers 30 years ago. Their action was sparked

by news that the Probation Service had contacted relatives of the officers and the federation to say Roberts was applying for parole and would be intending to live in the London area if released.

Under the Victims' Charter, it is standard practice in such cases to let relatives of victims know when a prisoner is to be released.

Roberts, now 59, was jailed for life in December 1966 for the murder of three police officers in Shepherd's Bush, west London. He was on the run for three months.

The trial judge recommended that Roberts serve a minimum of 30 years. Two other men were convicted with him. John Duddy died in jail and Jack Witney, who did not fire the fatal shots, was freed in 1992.

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, has written to the Probation Service saying Roberts should never be considered for parole, and Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, has written to Michael Howard to demand that Roberts never be released.

Mr Bennett said: "We owe

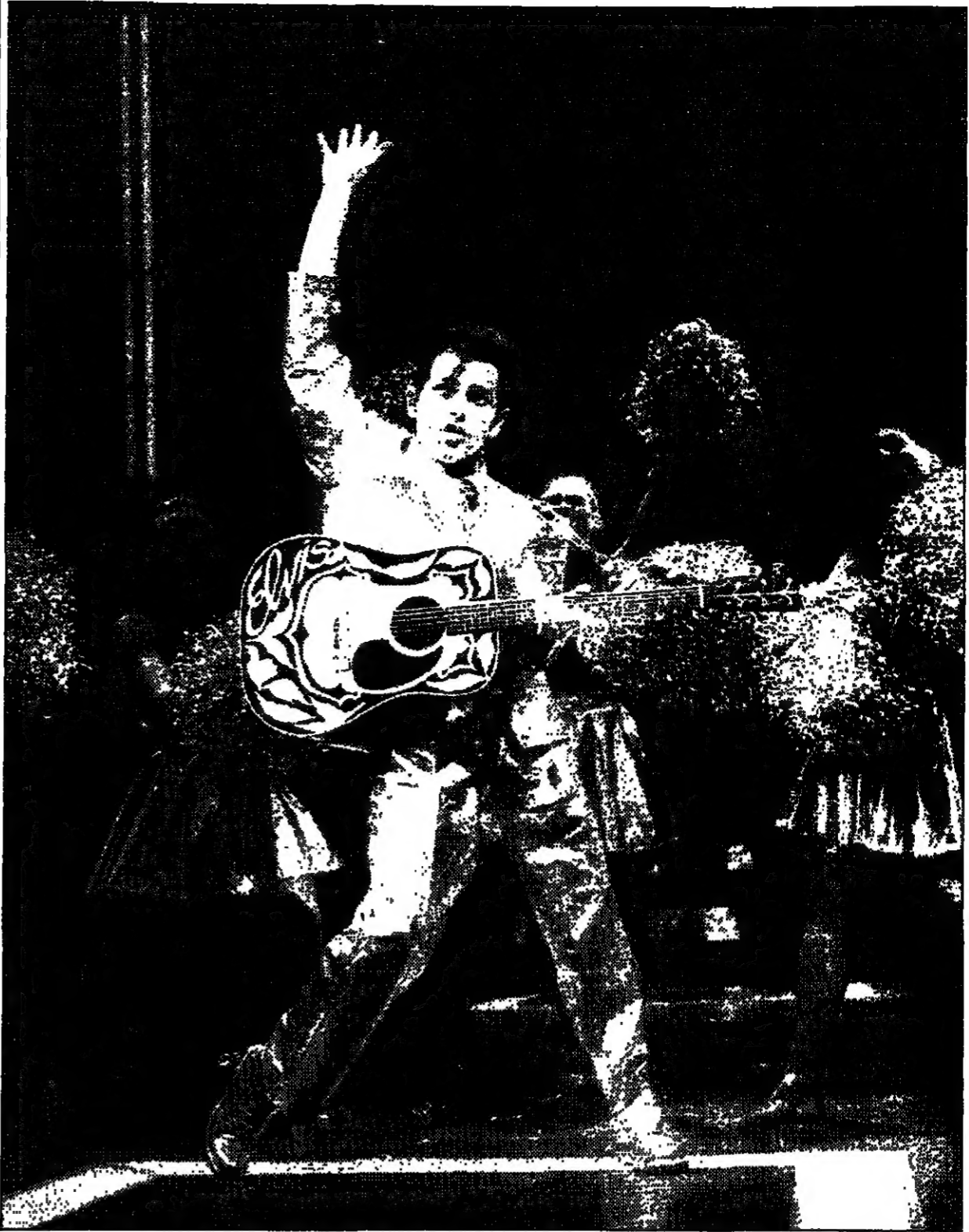
it to police officers who were serving then, and those who are still serving, that this sentence is a deterrent."

The Police Federation supports the death penalty for the murder of police officers. The issue will be debated at this year's Police Federation conference in Scarborough next month.

Roberts was told he would be considered for parole in 1992 but this process was cancelled.

In an interview with the Guardian in 1993 at Dartmoor prison, he said: "I can't prove I'm not a risk."

One of the factors considered when parole is discussed is remorse. In the interview, Roberts said: "The police aren't like real people to us. They're strangers. They're the enemy... I do feel sorry for what we did to their families. But it's like people I killed in Malaysia (when in the army). You don't feel remorse."



Tim Whitnall as Elvis Presley rehearsing yesterday for *Elvis - The Musical*, opening at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London, on April 15. Alexander Bar and Pj Proby play the singer in his younger and later years. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON NEWS

## GPs lose cash loophole

### Doctors who quit fundholding barred from creaming off profits

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**M**INISTERS are closing a loophole which has allowed family doctors to quit the fundholding scheme with past profits while leaving current losses to be met by their local health authority.

Fundholding practices approved in 1991. During the first four years in the scheme, it built up an overall surplus of just under £100,000 by under-spending the budgets it was given to pay for patients' drugs and non-urgent hospital care.

the budgets are intended to pay for treatment. According to an Audit Commission report last year, 60 per cent of savings spent had gone on premises, furnishings and practice or office equipment.

## Facts prove strange as fiction on day of tall tales

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

**I**T WAS April Fool's Day, but even so, the stories in yesterday's newspapers strained credibility almost to breaking point.

They were an implausible crop: the Daily Mail reported that Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, was prepared to quit over the Government's disastrous handling of the BSE crisis, while the Daily Telegraph made front page news out of Railtrack's instructions to staff to travel by car.

and Virgin Cola took the fizz out of Pepsi's planned blue can relaunch with a warning: "If the can turns blue the Cola's gone flat". BMW unveiled its Insect Deflector Screen to keep windscreens bug-free, developed by German scientist, Dr Jurgen Afalfurit. (You're going to fall for it).

**Do you have about 40% too much money?**

Then why spend 40% more on your international calls?

- Worldcall costs about 40% less than BT for international calls.
- Call anytime, to anywhere in the world.
- Pay for what you say, with per second billing to most countries.
- Enjoy high quality digital connections from your home or business.
- Prepay just £25\* and get £10 free credit.
- It's simple - just dial Worldcall first.

**£10 FREE CALL OFFER**

Call now 0181 900 9990

**Worldcall**

for those with about 40% more to say

# 1 in 3 women wear the wrong shoes.

## Where do you fit in?

Do you waste hours scouring the High Street for shoes, only to end up with a pair that don't fit? Do you endure weeks of discomfort trying to break new shoes in?

**YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT ALONE**

If you answered yes to either of these questions, you may well be one of the third of women in Britain who suffer the effects of ill-fitting shoes.

According to a recent National Footwear Survey, one in three women buy the wrong size or width shoes, yet two in three made comfort the most important factor when buying shoes. So it seems that what you want, you simply can't get. Until now that is.

**THE SECRET IS IN THE WIDTH FITTING**

Feet are three dimensional, but many shoe manufacturers only seem concerned with one - the length or 'size'. For example, size 5 feet can differ dramatically in width fitting - the measurement around the widest part of the foot. So it's no wonder many High Street shoe shops have no choice but to either force your feet into narrow fitting shoes or compromise by offering a longer shoe to achieve a wider fit. However, The Shoe Tailor provides a 1/4 inch difference between each width fitting and it's this vital statistic that gives our shoes that made to measure feel.

**THE NEXT BEST THING TO MADE TO MEASURE**

Classic Combination's revolutionary Sizing Survey has already brought comfort to thousands of British women with a range of consistently better fitting fashions. Now we have turned our attention to footwear to create 'The Shoe Tailor' - a range of fashion footwear in five width fittings that you won't find in any High Street store. So now, in addition to clothes, our new catalogue also features all the latest styles of casual footwear, court shoes, boots, sandals and low, medium and high heeled shoes - all with that Classic Combination fit. Prices start from just £9.99 - so everyone can comfortably afford the luxury of shoes that feel tailor-made.

**FREE DELIVERY & NO QUIBBLE GUARANTEE**

Shop with Classic Combination and everything you order is guaranteed and delivered FREE of charge. Simply order from our catalogue, by phone or post, in the comfort of your own home, and we'll deliver your order FREE - direct to your door. The Classic Combination 'No-Quibble Guarantee' gives you total peace of mind, too. So if you're not completely satisfied with your order, you can return them completely FREE of charge - no questions asked.

**CALL NOW OR POST THE COUPON TODAY**

For your FREE Classic Combination catalogue featuring The Shoe Tailor, call 0161 238 1353 or complete and post the coupon now. You'll also receive a Footwear Survey Summary and our FREE easy-to-use Foot Measuring Guide to enable you to discover your correct shoe size and width fitting.

**CLASSIC COMBINATION**

**FREE CATALOGUE**

PLUS FOOTWEAR SURVEY SUMMARY AND FOOT MEASURING GUIDE

Simply enter your details below and post free today.

Mr/Ms/Ms Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (including 020 Code): \_\_\_\_\_

Post free to: Classic Combination, FREEPOST, 53 Dale Street, Manchester M99 2BQ.

**The SHOE TAILOR**

Now everyone can afford shoes that feel Tailor-made

Classic Combination Ltd, 53 Dale Street, Manchester M60 6ES. Registered in England 310933.

CALL 0161 238 1353 NOW for your FREE Classic Combination Catalogue, Footwear Survey Summary and Foot Measuring Guide. Lowest prices from 9.99, 7 days a week. Please quote CLA 1353 when calling.



Bob Drogin reports from Amuru on the violent Christian fanatics intent on returning their country to another dark age of bloodshed

# Cult army shatters Uganda's peace

**B**RIGADIER General Cheff Ali, army commander of northern Uganda, held his gleaming sword high as he mounted the back of a bicycle pedalled by an aide and charged off into the bush to inspect the depredations of Africa's latest nightmare.

For two hours, terrified villagers told him of atrocities and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, a Christian fundamentalist cult led by a self-proclaimed prophet with a murderous manner.

Okeya Sante, a school-teacher, aged 32, told how the rebels shouted: "Teachers come out!" when they came to

his hamlet late last year. When he emerged from his hut, they shot him in the chest and arms. "I said, 'You are killing me for no reason.' They said: 'You are a teacher. We don't want teachers.' His right arm had to be amputated at the elbow.

The guerrillas returned last month. This time they burned 17 thatched huts and the school. Four villagers stepped on land mines left by the retreating rebels; one was killed and three lost limbs.

In Topiny Marinus's charred hut, someone left a message scratched on the mud bricks: "This war will not end."

That much is clear. Since

stepping up their attacks in early February, members of the Lord's Resistance Army have killed at least 250 people, mostly civilians, and abducted hundreds more. They

**At first, Mr Kony's troops sliced the lips, ears or arms off their victims**

say their goal is to topple the government of President Yoweri Museveni and install a regime dedicated to enforcing the Ten Commandments.

Mr Museveni has transformed Uganda since he seized power in 1986. The economy is the fastest-growing in Africa, the press is free, and presidential elections are scheduled for May.

But progress, at least in the north, is now held hostage by a former Catholic altar boy, Joseph Kony.

Mr Kony's army is an outgrowth of the Holy Spirit Movement, a Christian cult that ravaged northern Uganda in the late 1980s. It was led by Alice Lakwena, who claimed she was possessed by the angry spirit of a long-dead Italian soldier.

Mr Kony, reportedly her cousin, became her successor

after she went into exile in 1988. He also claimed he was controlled by spirits. But backed by officers once loyal to the former dictator Milton Obote, Mr Kony soon eclipsed his mentor.

At first his troops sliced the lips, ears or arms off their victims. Later, anyone seen riding a bicycle or owning white chickens was slain. These days, the owners of white pigs are killed.

Mr Kony said he cut off lips to stop people from reporting his whereabouts. Similarly, in an area without phones or cars, he targeted bicycles to stop people from warning the authorities. And chickens?

"White chickens are alleg-

ations," scoffed Walter Lutkang, a former Lord's Resistance Army guerrilla captured by the military. "What he doesn't like are pigs. Pigs are ghosts."

For now, Mr Kony's estimated 400 to 800 guerrillas are unlikely to rout the government. About 20,000 soldiers, or half the army, have been sent to stop them.

But the battle is not going well. On March 9, the guerrillas machine-gunned and burned a 17-vehicle convoy of civilian cars and buses. The military says 22 people were killed; survivors insist that more than 100 died.

"This is basically a child army that is terrorising the

people," said Matthew Lukwya, deputy medical superintendent. He complains that government forces have "no sense of urgency" because only civilians are attacked.

That might change. Last week a large rebel force attacked an army outpost for the first time, wounding three soldiers.

Gen Ali, the bicycle-riding army commander, insists he is making progress. But he is frustrated. The rebels attack at night when helicopters are useless, and they strike where least expected.

"We have been working a long time without achieving very much," he admitted sadly. — Los Angeles Times



## A little intifada but with one vital difference

**Derek Brown in Bir Zeit**

**I**T WAS, at first sight, just like the old days. A thin line of Israeli soldiers stood on a ridge, being ineffectually pelted with stones by students. Every time the students ventured forward, a canister of tear gas leaped towards them. From time to time there was a whoop of delight as a canister was picked up and hurled back.

The scene could have been time-warped from the intifada, the Palestinian uprising of the late 1980s, with one vital difference: between the students and the Israeli troops, making no impression on either, was a small contingent of Palestinian police.

Their dark blue uniforms stood out against the stony slope in Atarah hamlet outside Bir Zeit as they vainly tried to push back the stone-throwers.

The ignominious role of the Palestinian police has become a central issue in the West Bank since Israel imposed a travel and trade blockade more than a month ago, after the Islamist suicide bombings. Nowhere is the issue more contentious than in Bir Zeit, home of the territory's most prestigious university. Last week Israeli para-

troopers raided the university campus and surrounding villages. Landing from helicopters before dawn, they burst into dormitories and apartments, rounding up students and herding them on to a football field for interrogations. In six hours more than 370 men were arrested, of whom 250 were Bir Zeit students and staff.

Israeli military men said they were searching for "terrorists". All but a dozen or so have been released.

Two days later Palestinian police in the autonomous enclave of Nablus broke up a student protest rally at an al-Najah university. Firing live rounds and tear gas. Two students were shot and wounded, and 10 others injured.

President Yasser Arafat has ordered an inquiry, but students and other West Bankers are unimpressed.

"We don't know who is more against us, our government or the Israelis," said "Ibrahim", a 20-year-old second year student of psychology at Bir Zeit, who escaped from the paratroopers last Thursday by leaping from his apartment window and hiding on a hillside. He is from the Gaza Strip, and all Gaza students in the West Bank have been ordered home.

"Everyone from Gaza is a terrorist who wants to destroy Israel," he said yesterday, with weary irony. "It is really not fair. I don't have anything to do with Gaza."

He has not seen his family, who live in Khan Yunis refugee camp, for two years. He would like to go home, but he does not dare try to pass through the Israeli checkpoints. And now he lives, semi-underground, in the nearby self-rule enclave of Ramallah, which means that on his daily trip to the university he has to pass through Palestinian checkpoints.

About 30 Gaza students captured last Thursday have been sent home; deported from one part of autonomous Palestine to another. Other are luckier, but no less angry. Waqar Ahmed, from London, talked of students being handcuffed, blindfolded and beaten. "This was a terrorist act, committed to boost the election campaign."

Bir Zeit's frustration became tangible yesterday when a couple of thousand staff and students demonstrated outside the municipal headquarters and police station. It was brief and peaceful, and did not match the mood of a minority, who ignored the call to return to the campus, and instead made for the hamlet of Atarah, to hurl stones at Israeli soldiers guarding the bypass built for Jewish settlers.

It was, by the standards of the intifada, a small-scale confrontation. But in the new surrealism of the West Bank — Ramallah is autonomous, Atarah is Israeli-controlled, and Bir Zeit itself is supposedly shared — the little riot on the hillside could have been a harbinger of something infinitely more ugly.

Japan has given the Palestinian Authority almost \$14 million for health and education projects in the self-rule areas.



A Palestinian girl carries an olive branch at a protest against closures in the Gaza Strip. PHOTOGRAPH: AHMED JADALLAN

## Jobs axed at UN

**Mark Tran in New York**

**T**HE United Nations yesterday started cutting jobs as the worst financial crisis in the organisation's history began to bite.

Joseph Connor, its top manager, began briefings spelling out to member states the progress he has made to cut the staff of 10,000 by 10 per cent. The bulk of the cuts are expected to come from non-replacements while between 250 and 300 staff will be paid off.

A shrinking budget and late payments by member states are to blame. Washington, the biggest defaulter, owes \$1.5 billion (\$1 billion). At the beginning of the year, half the UN's members had not paid last year's dues and the organisation is owed \$3.1 billion.

The crisis could mean a total shutdown by November. Mr Connor, formerly chairman of Ericsson Waterhouse, was brought in at the behest of the US to apply private sector management techniques to cut out waste. He has managed to keep the UN going by borrowing money out of the UN peacekeeping budget to pay salaries and other expenses.

The end of the UN's Bosnian operation will mean a big drop in the cost of peacekeeping, but it spells trouble in the short term as Mr Connor cannot dip into this source of funds to make up for the shortfall in the regular budget.

Last year, the secretary-general asked the general assembly to approve an operating budget of \$2.8 billion for this year and next. The assembly voted for a budget of \$2.6 billion and then asked for another \$104 million in cuts.

## Peres promises referendum

**T**HE Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, said yesterday he would ask for a referendum before signing a final accord with the Palestinians on the fate of Jerusalem and Jewish settlers.

His unexpected announcement, reported by army radio, was made on a trip to the Gulf to boost trade and shore up domestic support for his peace moves.

Talks on Arab East Jerusalem, the 130,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the return of Palestinian refugees are due to start next month.

Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the hardline opposition Likud party, told the radio: "I am puzzled by the attempts by Mr Peres to bypass the real referendum. A real referendum is the elections." — Reuter.

## Table dancers sidestep recession in Mexico

**Phil Gunson reports on the lucrative sex trade in the capital's illegal night clubs where workers can earn £1,500 a month**

**I**T IS 5.30 on a Friday afternoon and Saldia is wearing an engaging smile and practically nothing else.

The 20-year-old from Jalisco state spends the whole of her working week in various states of undress: she is a worker in one of the few Mexican nightclubs that apparently booming despite the recession — the sex trade.

"This is the business to be in," she grins. "I'm sure there are not many engineers or professors making as much as I do."

As a stripper in one of the hundreds of "night clubs" which have mushroomed in the centre of Mexico City, Saldia takes home about £1,500 a month — twice what she used to earn as a saleswoman selling reconditioned motors.

When the recession hit in December 1994, and the peso slumped to half its previous value, the price of imported parts for the cars put them out of reach of many customers. Saldia was laid off.

With qualifications in dressmaking, tourism and public relations, she thought she would have no trouble getting another job.

"The problem," she says, "is that if you have a good body, most bosses want to get you in the sack."

Ironically, she feels safer taking her clothes off in public. "The clients treat you like a queen," she says.

"They may be abusive wife-beaters at home, but here it's like the first year of marriage, when everything's great."

Sex with the clients is optional, she adds. "If you don't want to go with them you don't have to. And the security here is better than in any restaurant — it's safer than a first date."

Pedro Peñalosa, who chairs the public safety committee of Mexico City's legislative assembly, said recently that in just one central district of the capital — Cuauhtémoc — 1,217 clubs of this kind were operating; though not all offer the kind of working conditions Saldia enjoys.

Around 220 are estimated to be completely outside the law. Licensed as anything from restaurants to lingerie shops, they survive — somewhat precariously — by paying large bribes to the authorities.

If ordered to close they can reportedly often obtain a stay of execution from the courts by greasing a palm or two; and ultimately they reopen somewhere else under a different name.

Mr Peñalosa punts the district office's daily "taks" in bribes from night clubs, both legal and illegal, at thousands of pounds.

In February the city official in charge of Cuauhtémoc was jailed pending trial on unconnected corruption charges and his replacement, Alejandro Carrillo Castro, has promised a campaign against the illegal strip joints.

The district has been contributing more than its share to a 40 per cent increase in Mexico City crime figures since late 1994. Local residents blame the clubs "for attracting criminals."

Alarmed at the prospect of a campaign against businesses they say employ 20,000 people, the night-club workers' union held a demonstration to demand that Mr Carrillo Castro regulate the clubs instead of trying to shut them down.

"They want to take our jobs away, but they don't say what we should do instead," says one union member.

The workers may, however, count themselves lucky that Mexico City is still run as a department of the central government, rather than ruled — as are many provincial cities — by the conservative Catholics of the opposition National Action Party (PAN).

The party has acquired a reputation for moral crusades against everything from mini-skirts to the so-called "table dancers" which in Mexico City at least seems to have little to do with tables and a lot to do with bodily contact.

"I used to work in PAN-governed Tijuana," says Saldia, "and there they make you dance on the table. It's no fun at all."

Time may be running out for the table dancers, as the first direct elections for the city government are to be held next year. In the meantime the fun seems set to continue.

## News in brief

**Rebel prisoners refuse deal**

INMATES holding 23 hostages at a maximum security prison have rejected the Brazilian government's offer of guns, money and getaway cars, pushing the stand-off to its fourth day yesterday.

"We're at an impasse," Captain Adalton Florêncio do Nascimento of the Goiás state police said.

Inmates at the prison in Aparecida de Goiânia, a small town 580 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro, seized 40 officials and reporters on Thursday during a tour of the overcrowded prison. They later released 17 hostages in exchange for food and water.

Negotiations between officials and the rebel ringleader Leonardo Parajá, a convicted kidnapper and bank robber, broke down on Sunday. The convicts are said to have made new, undisclosed demands. — AP.

**Turabi back in public role**

THE Sudanese parliament elected the Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi as Speaker yesterday, putting him back in public office after more than six years as an ideologist active behind the scenes.

His election consecrates the close alliance between himself and President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Mr Turabi, aged 64, won a seat in parliament last month in roughly the same Khartoum constituency he lost in multi-party elections 10 years ago. His main opponent abandoned campaigning, citing voting irregularities. — Reuter.

**Rwandans held in Cameroon**

A dozen Rwandans suspected of involvement in the massacre of at least 500,000 people in 1994 are being held in Yaounde, Cameroon, officials said yesterday. They include Theoneste Bagozora, a former colonial accused of masterminding the killings. — AP.

**UN food appeal**

UN officials appealed for Liberia's warring factions to open a safe corridor so aid agencies can deliver food to people trapped by fighting in Tubmanburg, north-west Liberia. — AP.

**Lagos opposition**

Nigerian pro-democracy groups agreed at weekend meetings in Oso and Johannesburg to form an umbrella organisation, the United Democratic Front of Nigeria, to oppose General Sani Abacha's military regime and restore civilian rule, the group said in a statement. — Reuter.

**New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!**

**NOKIA**  
NEW GSM MODEL 1610.

- Up to 100 hrs\* standby-time
- Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- 199 name/number memory
- Fast recharge-55 mins
- 5 selectable ring tones
- Weight 250g

**FREE 50 MINUTES CALLS PER MONTH** IN APRIL, MAY & JUNE

- NEW GENERATION DIGITAL NOKIA - replaces the proven 2110 model
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- MORE POWER - up to 100 hours\* standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security

**LIMITED OFFER**  
**£9.99** INC. VAT

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND  
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise

**Cellphones direct**

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

**FREephone 0800 000 888**

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 5PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM  
CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER MONDAY

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND YOUR AGREEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND BRING REF 285. (FOUNTAIN WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT OTHER CREDIT CARDS)

Offer subject to status and a standard terms contract for each phone from Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4JL. Full terms and conditions of the offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 295522.

صكتا من الاجل



صحنه من الامل



Over the top... A British Warrior fighting vehicle in Gornji Vakuf. Guns were routinely locked on the cemetery, a hotbed of snipers



'I used to think long and hard about whether it was right to kill these people. And I decided that it was. The aid got through. Hundreds of thousands of people were saved' Brigadier Alastair Duncan

# Shootbat squaddies' hidden battles

British troops did more than hold a line between the factions, writes **Ed Vulliamy**. When they were pushed over the edge, they shot back



**T**HE British Army's covert war in Bosnia began in October 1992 when, in fog, troops set up three bases, at Tomislavgrad, Gornji Vakuf and Vitez. Until they arrived the war was being fought between a Muslim-Croat alliance against the Serbs, and the British bases were well behind the lines. But the very week that 12 men of the 1st Battalion, 23 Cheshire Regiment, pitched up at Vitez schoolhouse, war broke out — virtually on their doorstep — between the erstwhile Croatian and Muslim allies.

It was a ferocious fight in which the British became more closely involved than history has hitherto recorded. The British were heavily provoked, particularly by the Croats, who were ideologically inhospitable from the start. As nationalists, they had long memories of Churchill's backing of Tito. As fervent Catholics, they crowded about Northern Ireland. Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart was defiant about his right to open fire on anyone obstructing the delivery of aid — to the horror of tepid Whitehall. But despite his

larger-than-life, pleasantly immodest presence, he preferred to play what he now calls 'chess' with the Croatian army, the HVO. When Croat snipers took up positions around his base or convoys, he simply went out himself "and told them to get lost". "Usually they did, and if they didn't, we shot them." On April 16 the British soldiers took what one calls "a bit of action" after the Croat massacre of Muslim civilians at Ahmic. Angry patrols went out into the night and fired at the Croats. By the time the Cheshires left in April 1993, the official number of dead Croats was six. The Cheshires were succeeded in April 1993 by Prince of Wales Own Yorkshires, another tightly-woven county regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Alastair Duncan. In their first week of duty, a HVO mob ambushed the unofficial "Convoy of Joy". The Yorkshires returned fire at a Croat mortar nest, killing four. That was the beginning. "This regiment was less bombastic than the Cheshires. Brigadier (as he now is) Duncan is more camera-shy than Col Stewart: he is a courteous, agreeable man. But he and his regiment emerged as the toughest unit of the United Nations protection force, Unprofor.

**B**UT who to shoot? "When you are shot at by a 15-year-old with an AK47, and you're in a Warrior, then it's not exactly 'minimum force' to open up with a chain gun and slice him in half, is it? But if someone is firing at you again and again, and lives are threatened, then it's fair to shoot, and if you kill him that's very sad." Brig Duncan received frequent death threats signed by the 'local HVO commander,

One evening the Croats fired a wire-guided anti-tank missile capable of destroying the Warrior and everyone in it. Brig Duncan said: "I used to think long and hard about whether it was right to kill these people. Whether it was that important. And I decided that it was. The aid got through. Hundreds of thousands of people were saved. That was what we were there for." Next into Vitez and Gornji were the Coldstream Guards, who "bunkered down", earning themselves the nickname "Coldstream Guards". But bunkering down meant the Guards moved less across country, and that let the snipers get closer and meant more shooting. In Gornji Vakuf, an all-out night-time battle between the Guards and the HVO was raging. It was during this period that a delegation from the Bosnian army arrived at Gornji Vakuf base and asked (as paraphrased by a still-serving soldier): "Could you please stop shooting at the Croats, because they think it's us and we're getting all the shit for it." Rusica Korosec admits her husband should not have been where he was when he died in January 1994. He was in a HVO tank whose turret followed British patrols along the main street in Gornji. "He hated the British, and he hated the Muslims," she said. "I could understand fighting the Muslims, but I don't understand why they tried to fight the British." This is what one of the soldiers said: "Night after fucking night it followed us. We were deployed in central Bosnia, but now 50 scouts and covert soldiers were sent behind Serbian lines. An SAS officer, who declined to say whether he was a member of these teams, described their work around Gorazde. The scouts, from the SAS, the 14th Intelligence Regiment, and the Royal Signals, worked in groups of four. They had trained on gruelling 'beat-up' marches over the

not take a single fatality. Brig Duncan said: "I used to think long and hard about whether it was right to kill these people. Whether it was that important. And I decided that it was. The aid got through. Hundreds of thousands of people were saved. That was what we were there for." Next into Vitez and Gornji were the Coldstream Guards, who "bunkered down", earning themselves the nickname "Coldstream Guards". But bunkering down meant the Guards moved less across country, and that let the snipers get closer and meant more shooting. In Gornji Vakuf, an all-out night-time battle between the Guards and the HVO was raging. It was during this period that a delegation from the Bosnian army arrived at Gornji Vakuf base and asked (as paraphrased by a still-serving soldier): "Could you please stop shooting at the Croats, because they think it's us and we're getting all the shit for it." Rusica Korosec admits her husband should not have been where he was when he died in January 1994. He was in a HVO tank whose turret followed British patrols along the main street in Gornji. "He hated the British, and he hated the Muslims," she said. "I could understand fighting the Muslims, but I don't understand why they tried to fight the British." This is what one of the soldiers said: "Night after fucking night it followed us. We were deployed in central Bosnia, but now 50 scouts and covert soldiers were sent behind Serbian lines. An SAS officer, who declined to say whether he was a member of these teams, described their work around Gorazde. The scouts, from the SAS, the 14th Intelligence Regiment, and the Royal Signals, worked in groups of four. They had trained on gruelling 'beat-up' marches over the

ation was formed in February 1994, by which time men from all regiments had been decorated for remarkable acts of bravery on behalf of civilians and colleagues. There are no final figures for the number of dead. Unlike in Northern Ireland, soldiers who opened fire in Bosnia were not obliged to wander into minefields to inspect the damage. But the Guards' score took the total well into three figures. THE Ministry of Defence cannot give official numbers of people killed by the British Army. The number put out at the end of the Muslim-Croat war was 38. That brought a nervous cough from senior officers on the ground, and a pucker grin from the lads. One senior commander said: "I'm a bit of a snigger, but I don't think it's a good idea to put a number on it." In early 1994 attention shifted eastward, towards the Serbs and the Muslim enclave. That January a British soldier, Michael Ross, took command of Unprofor for the first time. Gorazde became a miserable posting, since the commanders in Sarajevo refused to force convoys through the blockading Serbs. Even fuel failed to arrive, and patrols were mounted on mules and horses. But there were other British soldiers at work in Gorazde. Handfuls of Special Air Services men had already been deployed in central Bosnia, but now 50 scouts and covert soldiers were sent behind Serbian lines. An SAS officer, who declined to say whether he was a member of these teams, described their work around Gorazde. The scouts, from the SAS, the 14th Intelligence Regiment, and the Royal Signals, worked in groups of four. They had trained on gruelling 'beat-up' marches over the

Brecon Beacons. Their brief was to weave a web of military intelligence in preparation for air strikes — and to shoot their way out of trouble. They usually pretended to be UN military observers, but sometimes worked from "rides" — hidden bunkers or aid vehicles, and, in the case of Blnac, the infamous ambulances. Outside Gorazde hides were established on the front line from which the Bosnian army retreated on April 16 1994. One SAS patrol was exposed to the Serbian advance, and two men injured. To get his men out, General Rose called the UN envoy Yasushi Akashi; a conversation which was, famously, taped. Gen Rose asked for close air support: Mr Akashi, lurching with the Bosnian Serb president, Radovan Karadzic, refused. The more seriously wounded man was evacuated by helicopter — a deal struck, the Guardian has learned, with the Bosnian Serb warlord Radko Mladic, in exchange for dropping the air strike request — but later died. Another recovered. The remaining six SAS men apparently disappeared. This is what happened to four of them. They set out along the post-trails through Serbian territory along which the Bosnians had supplied the enclave with ammunition throughout the siege. They were stopped by a Serbian unit. The team went into what they call "head-on contact drill", in which each moves swiftly into position, firing like mad but in such a way that they do not shoot each other. The Serbian patrol, between 10 and 15 men, was wiped out in seconds. The SAS team returned to Gen Rose's residence in the early Sunday morning light. Faces blackened, having made it to Sarajevo and entered the besieged capital on foot.

## A senior officer says: 'There was a feeling at HQ that what was going on at Gornji was a little OTT'

to their level," Brig Duncan said. "You don't get mad, you get even, and revenge is not a civilized way to behave." Sometimes the Croats raised the stakes so high that even getting even would have been folly. The worst sniping was from the cemetery in Gornji Vakuf, the main street of which was a narrow alleyway on a man's land patrolled by the British. Every British vehicle that turned the corner into town locked its turret on the cemetery, as though to say: "If you're ready, so are we." A senior Unprofor officer says on reflection: "There was a feeling at HQ that what was going on at Gornji was a little OTT. That to lock your guns on the Croats as a matter of course was exacerbating the situation."

## Yeltsin deals another snub to Ukraine

James Meek reports on the strained diplomatic relations between Moscow and Kiev as Russian elections loom

**P**RESIDENT Boris Yeltsin set a new record for diplomatic non-appearances yesterday when he cancelled a trip to Ukraine for the sixth time, strengthening the sense of unease in Russia's southern neighbour about future relations between the two east Slav giants. Ukraine, a country of 50 million people beginning to find its feet after five years of economic collapse, is feeling increasingly squeezed between an expanding Nato to the west and a ressertive, nationalist Russia to the east. The official reason for Mr Yeltsin's cancellation was that no agreement had been reached on the status of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and its base in Sevastopol, on Ukrainian territory. The president of Russia deems it impossible to sign accords which do not fully meet Russia's interests, said Mr Yeltsin's press secretary, Sergei Medvedev. "The head of the Russian

state hopes that his visit to Ukraine will become possible soon." In fact, the Kremlin knew long before it scheduled the visit that Kiev had no intention of yielding to Russian demands for exclusive and eternal use of the Sevastopol base, which would effectively make it a Russian enclave. In the run-up to June elections, Mr Yeltsin and his advisers clearly felt that even to be seen negotiating with the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, as an equal would inflame bitter resentment among Russians, who feel part of this country was allowed to slip away from Moscow's rule in 1991 — and blame Mr Yeltsin for allowing it to do so. Mr Yeltsin's visit, scheduled for Thursday and announced long in advance, was supposed to cap a triumphant week in which he would pose in the historical role of the gatherer of the Slav lands — the mantle to

which his chief election rival, Gennady Zyuganov, aspires. Today Mr Yeltsin is due to sign an agreement on a vaguely-defined "understanding" with the third former pillar of post-Soviet east Slavdom, Belarus. While the Belarusian leader, Alexander Lukashenko, is happy to play the role of the humble vassal to Mr Yeltsin, the Ukrainian authorities prefer to keep Russia at arm's length. Mr Kuchma, who won the Ukrainian presidency in 1994 on a pro-Russian ticket, has steadily shifted his ground towards a more nationalist position, breaking with moves towards economic integration with Russia when he parted company with three top advisers earlier this year. The Ukrainian leader is still the country's most popular politician, and though his core support has swung from the Russia-friendly east to the nationalist west, a subtle shift in favour of pragmatic Ukrainian statehood seems to be occurring in other areas, such as Kiev itself, as the economy bottoms out. Despite fury and demonstrations in some parts of

Ukraine, moves to ease out Russian television channels in favour of Ukrainian ones have met with surprisingly little resistance, and the Ukrainian language is increasingly being heard on the streets of the capital — a city whose inhabitants previously always chose to speak Russian. Mr Kuchma has already said he wants to see Mr Yeltsin beat Mr Zyuganov in June. While the current Russian leader is a capricious partner, the Ukrainian leadership prefers his synthetic Russian nationalism to the populist, Soviet Russian patriotic line being pursued by the communists. No one expects Mr Zyuganov to try to force his "voluntary union of brother peoples" on Ukraine if elected president, but there are fears of an extreme counter-reaction by Ukrainian nationalists, if he does come to power. Aware of the growing importance of Ukraine as a buffer state, both Russia and Nato are wooing it as a military and economic partner. Ukraine has been noticeably more enthusiastic

about Partnership for Peace than Russia: United States troops have carried out several exercises with Ukrainian soldiers and British forces are due to do the same this year. Ukraine is now the third largest recipient of US aid after Israel and Egypt. At the same time Mr Kuchma, former head of a ballistic missile factory, and his civilian defence minister Valery Shmarov are anxious that Ukraine's bankrupt arms factories should co-operate with their old Russian partners, particularly as Russia's overseas arms exports show signs of picking up. Ukraine has sold Russia a number of strategic bombers and cruise missiles left on its territory after the break-up of the Soviet Union, and seems likely to join a CIS air defence pact. One of the reasons Russia fears the expansion of Nato is that even if Nato is not an anti-Russian organisation now, the character of the countries on the list to join would make it more anti-Russian in the future. Western Ukrainian nationalism, like Baltic nationalism, is virulently anti-Russian.

## Idol flusters Italian poll

**J**ohn Hooper in Rome ITALIAN politicians were waiting impatiently yesterday to see whether the country's most popular public figure would throw in his lot with either of the two main blocs contesting this month's closely-run general election. Antonio Di Pietro, the prosecutor who became a national idol for his role in the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption drive, has it in his power to electrify the campaign. On Friday his immense moral authority was restored in full when a judge in the northern town of Brescia dismissed charges of misconduct against him. Though spiced with scandal and controversy, the run-up to the April 21 election has so far failed to enthral a jaded electorate. It will be the seventh national ballot in four years, and the campaign is overshadowed by fear that the outcome will fail to resolve the political deadlock. Mr Di Pietro could change all that. Pollsters reckon he is capable of swinging up to one vote in six. But he has a problem. A former policeman with the air of one who does not suffer fools gladly, he has acknowledged a sympathy for the ideas put

forward by Silvio Berlusconi's rightwing Forza Italia (Come on Italy) party. Last year he even held secret talks with the television magnate at his home near Milan. Since then, however, evidence has mounted to suggest that some of Mr Berlusconi's closest associates plotted to discredit Mr Di Pietro and force him from his job. He resigned as prosecutor in December 1994, shortly before he was due to interrogate Mr Berlusconi about bribery allegations. The judge who threw out the case against him last week sent Mr Berlusconi's brother and the organiser of

Forza Italia to trial on charges of attempted extortion. The last opinion poll allowed before the election, published yesterday, showed Mr Berlusconi's rightwing alliance in the lead with 47 per cent of the vote. But it also showed combined support for the centre and left running at more than 44 per cent. Translated into an election result, that could again hand the balance of power to the regionalist Northern League. Bishop Salvatore Casazza, aged 74, of Monreale, near Palermo, was sent for trial yesterday on charges of corruption and fraud involving European Union funds.

**Rosenthal says: 'I always remember John Le Mesurier's advice to young actors: 'Always play the same role, if possible wearing the same suit.' Clearly, there is a writer's equivalent of that.'**  
Mark Lawson G2 page 4



**An arsenal on the right**  
 The US must confront awkward questions

WILL THE MONTANA crisis become a violent new symbol for America's ultra-right? The confrontation between the "freemen" of Jordan, Montana and the law enforcement officers may have a rather better chance of being resolved peacefully because of the lessons learnt after the Waco siege disaster. That assumes that the FBI sticks to its own new guidelines which say that deadly force should only be used if all other means of preventing "imminent and grave danger to officers and other persons" have failed. Backing off and creating space is the best approach: the worst one would be another shoot-out in which new martyrs are created for other militias.

The FBI has finally moved against the Jordan group not because they were preaching hatred and anti-semitism, but because of their skills in issuing bogus cheques and exacting fraudulent refunds from banks and businesses. But their activities have been on the increase over the past year in which they have made violent threats against government and court officials. After Oklahoma, this sort of ideology should be a warning signal that there is an arsenal of weapons which its exponents are prepared to use to defend their version of the American way of life. One fraudulent cheque was written to purchase 200 .50-caliber rifles, a similar number of bullet-proof vests, and 200,000 rounds of ammunition. If the cheque had not aroused suspicion, these arms would now be on the ranch. The group is already well-armed with 10,000 rounds to hand. The familiarity of America's gun culture does not lessen the threat which it poses, offering angry white males the opportunity to translate their obsessions into lethal action.

The US seems fated now to confront awkward questions about the ultra-right at increasingly frequent intervals. The first question concerns their ori-

gins and make-up: it is not enough to generalise that in the melting-pot of US society such fringe groups are bound to occur. Is there any way of identifying ahead of time the formation of such cults and neutralising them before they can attract more followers? The second and more troublesome question is whether such groups can be viewed as belonging to a class entirely of their own, or whether they really represent the most extreme point on a much broader social spectrum which must give deeper grounds for concern.

The ultra-right phenomenon is often explained, even explained away, as the historical price to be paid for the creation of the US with its very specific individualistic values. But no taxation without representation never meant just no taxation. And the constitution has been systematically misquoted to justify the carrying of personal arms. Ultra-rightism should not be glossed as the right of self-determination and opposition to "big government" carried to excess. It is and always has been a pathological expression of extreme views which are too often tolerated in the mainstream. Public figures should be more willing to speak out — as President Kennedy did against the John Birchites with their terrorist Minutemen fringe — against those who evade their social responsibility by finding "a simple solution, an appealing slogan or a convenient scapegoat". Of the familiar trio of anti-black, anti-communist and anti-Jewish ideology, only the last still survives. No wonder that members of the Michigan Militia use pictures of Bill and Hillary Clinton for target practice and that atheistic Washington has replaced the godless Soviets in their sights. With the mainstream Republican movement captured by the simple slogans of Newt Gingrich, it is not surprising that the spectrum has shifted unhappily further to the right.

**The choice of a blue generation**

But can Pepsi's colour change really be worth \$500 million?

BY ALMOST any standards a company which sold over \$30 billion world-wide last year and whose turnover rose by 8.6 per cent during a depressed year for the world economy is some kind of a success story. But not necessarily if that company happens to be called Pepsi-Cola. Because success for Pepsi is judged not just by the business ratios they taught you at Harvard Business School but by how well it does relative to The Other Company which also sells a similar syrupy water with additives. Pepsi still only manages a third of Coca-Cola's global sales. Worse, Coke now earns 80 per cent of its profits from overseas drinks, according to Business Week, against Pepsi's 6 per cent. The two companies have been slugging it out with each other for over 100 years and today Pepsi responds with one of the biggest marketing plays ever made anywhere — a \$500 million campaign to tell the waiting world not about a huge acquisition, not about a revolutionary new product, not about a revolutionary new flavour for its cola: something much bigger than that. It is changing the colour of its can from red, white and blue to what is described as electric blue. Wow.

On one level this is the twentieth century's homage to vacancy. On another it is a marketing war that defines the American business dream. Coca-Cola has turned something with almost no intrinsic value into one of the biggest wealth-creating machines on earth. The US journal Financial World which

rates brands according to a formula including sales, market position, sector trends and internationalisation reckons that it is the most expensive in the world. If you wanted to buy the name Coca-Cola — which, by the way, is the second most recognised word in the whole world after OK — it would cost around \$35 billion dollars. (Don't even ask how many starving children that would feed).

The stakes Pepsi is pitching for today are extremely high. The company will have to sell many hundreds of millions of extra cans simply to get back the money being spent on promoting this campaign and ensuring that all cans all over the world turn blue today in history's most expensive colour change. The colour is important. It represents a dash for freedom in a business world where competition so often breeds similarity. Blue is supposed to denote tradition, conservatism and reliability. To the extent that Coke is sometimes associated with the Democratic Party and Pepsi with the Republicans the new colour-coding will emphasise the difference. But, unless Pepsi knows something we don't, this may not turn out to be a very smart political move in terms of American politics where international franchises sometimes follow the flag. As for the political implications for Britain, we won't be able to answer the big question until someone in authority tells us whether blue Pepsi represents New Labour or not. On that one we will quietly pass.

**A word by any other name . . .**

The BBC's dilemma is telling us something about ourselves

IT IS typical of Dennis Potter's power to shock that even in death he has left an unexploded grenade — with 41 explosives undetected — within the portals of the BBC. One of the first tasks of the BBC's new DG, Sir Christopher Bland, is a letter from Virginia Bottomley about public dissatisfaction over taste and decency on television. It coincides with next month's posthumous screening of the two plays Potter penned against a real-time deadline. Karaoke and Cold Lazarus. The BBC is planning to show Karaoke on BBC1 five minutes after the 9 pm watershed even though it breaks BBC conventions about the most popular four letter word.

Just why this word retains such a power to shock — unlike its synonym "bonk" — is a bit of a mystery. It traces its literary origins before the start of the seventeenth century, though Shakespeare and Fletcher were content to use synonyms. For over 100 years it was too

shocking even for slang dictionaries until "outed" by Lawrence, Joyce and, more recently, Philip Larkin who brought it within sight of the A level syllabus. This won't shock a generation brought up on Hollywood thrillers, late night television showings, rap songs or primary school playground talk. Newspapers, like television, reflect new realities. When we last wrote about this five years ago, the number of usages in the Guardian and Independent combined was 125 a year. It is now more than twice as high at 328. Historians may find it curious that in the age of deregulation, the Government has not seen it fit to deregulate language. Maybe we have a deep psychological need for one or two words that dare not speak their name. If the floodgates opened then, perish the thought, a word that had taken so many centuries to become unshakable would soon become a boring cliché. What would we do then?



**Letters to the Editor**

**Panic stations on the railways**

JAMES Sherwood, winner of the rail-privatisation bid for the East Coast, believes: "We have to try and break the communist approach to running a railway" (Private train chief rails at communists, March 30). In 1982, when the East was still reddish, after a week's travelling through the Siberian winter, my train's arrival in Beijing was punctual to the second.

During 1996 I have so far travelled between Bangor and London 10 times. The average delay on arrival has been about 50 minutes. I am in fact writing this letter on a train from Euston. We have so far received broadcast apologies for delays resulting from a locomotive on fire near Willesden, late arrival of the previous train at Euston, non-appearance of a guard and a locomotive with failed brakes on the line ahead — and we haven't reached Watford. Philip Steele, Fron Deg, Galt y Fofel, Deiniolen, Gwynedd LL55 3EF.

**Mr Blair's bluff ballot**

THE decision by Tony Blair to ballot the individual members of the Labour Party to endorse his pre-election manifesto, which you praise so highly (Leader, March 30), has nothing to do with democracy and everything to do with political control.

It is not just that individual members will have no opportunity to amend details of the wide-ranging policies put forward or that it will sideline both the unions and the policy-making process of the Labour Party itself, though these are important.

The new Blair manoeuvre would replace the collectivist determination of policy by the collection of individual opinions about policies he has already determined. This would mean discarding the democratic traditions of the Labour movement for the use of cheap discredited populist methods that would give him the answers he wants without any meaningful dissent.

Effective dissent in general has always sprung from collective action. This is because individuals are invariably better informed, more able to resist media pressure, and more willing to experiment when they are engaged in collective discussions and decision-making. This is in stark contrast to their power as individuals isolated within the confines of their own homes with only a blaring TV, the Sun, the Mirror or even the Guardian to keep them company. Undoubtedly Tony Blair knows all about this, for he knows what to avoid in order to get a tame, lame membership that is identified only through their signatures on bankers' orders. (Prof) Vic Allen, Damens Lane, Keighley BD22 7AR.

TONY Blair's scheme involves putting an unamendable NEC document to conference. This will then be

put, in an unamendable form, to the party's individual membership, but not to its union membership.

Debate at conference will be restricted to endorsing or rejecting the NEC document. The same will be true of the membership ballot.

Under these circumstances, it is a foregone conclusion that the document will be approved. No sensible party member will vote against the manifesto in the run-up to a General Election. It is difficult to see how this can be a genuine exercise in participation. If the consequent apathy resulted in a low turn-out, the party would be damaged.

Mr Blair announced his proposal with little consultation of his NEC colleagues and without proper discussion. By excluding trade-union members from the ballot, he is in effect creating a two-tier party by diktat. Trevor Fisher, 49 Lovatt Street, Stafford ST16 3DB.

**Stop and search for the motive**

A POLICE state is one in which the police determine the content as well as the mode of implementation of the law. At the end of this week, as a result of legislation about to be rushed through both Houses of Parliament, the police will be able under the authority of a senior officer to stop any pedestrian and search him or her, together with anything they might be carrying, for articles of any kind that could be used for any purpose connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of what the Bill describes as "acts of terrorism".

These powers may specifically be exercised even where the police officer has no suspicion, reasonable or otherwise, about the person he or she is searching. The Act will herald a return to and will fully legitimise the arbitrary stop, search and arrest powers that were such a stain on our criminal process before the enactment of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in 1984.



**A woman's right to choose**

REALISE that staying at home in domestic bliss is not everyone's choice, but I believe Catherine Hakim (Feminists fall out over chores, March 29) has a point when she asserts that many women would jump at the chance to stay at home. I have discussed this issue with several women of my acquaintance, and we all conclude that home life is very nice thank you. These are all educated women, both with and without children, who have a clear preference for the freedom of domesticity over

career, but frequently we only whisper these desires to one another lest we be seen as traitors to the feminist cause.

Yet why should this be? Why should women be forced into a career any more than they should be forced into a life among the dusters? And perhaps there is an equal number of men who would prefer to stay at home. If only they dared to say so. Nicki Griffin, 72 Moorfields, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6QZ.

**Booted out**

GENERAL Sir David Ramsbotham's criticisms of proposals to place civilian young offenders in the military prison at Colchester (Boot camps 'middle', April 1) represent a refreshing dose of realism.

Although the Military Corrective Training Centre works well in equipping recalcitrant soldiers to return to the armed forces, research has consistently shown that military-style regimes do not reduce reoffending by civilian young offenders.

First, the two groups are very different. Detainees sent to the Military Corrective Training Centre have committed breaches of service discipline, most of which would not constitute criminal offences.

Secondly, detainees who return to the armed forces have the incentive of a future career in a service with an esprit de corps. In contrast, young offenders are often released to unemployment and the inner-city problems which helped to lead them into crime in the first place.

The best chance of steering young offenders away from further crime lies in regimes providing high-quality education, training, help with drug and alcohol abuse and highly focused work to change attitudes to offending. Paul Cavadiño, Chair, Penal Affairs Consortium, 189 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU.

**Another leukaemia enquiry nuked**

THE report on childhood leukaemia around the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield by the Government's Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) is disappointing. Once again a government committee has missed its opportunity to diagnose the real causes of these deaths. Like the Black Committee of 1994, it dismisses radiation as a cause because the levels are "far too small".

In the Sellafield area we know that sand and dirt on the beaches contains radioactive particles. Some of this is blown inland and has been detected in house dust. Children are particularly vulnerable since they get this dirt on their hands and, if they lick them, small amounts of radioactive material will be metabolised by their bodies.

Yet it is possible to go around with a Geiger counter and honestly conclude that radiation levels differ little from normal. This is because one of the main cancer-inducers is alpha radiation. Alpha particles cannot penetrate the skin, but when metabolised they do continuous damage to whatever organ they land in. (Dr) Phil Nicholson, University of Strathclyde, 107 Rottenrow, Glasgow G4 0NG.

**A Country Diary**

CHEESHIRE: The box-shaped hawthorn hedges that line the roads and lanes out of the village had lost their drab grey winter silhouettes, and by some trick of the light on a bright sunny day, were tinged with a rich red-purple haze. Close up, I could see that each roughly-clipped branch was loaded with deep red leaf buds, still firmly closed. On the verges the feathery leaves of cow parsley had started to appear along with those of dandelion and primrose, but were as advanced as the coltsfoot whose yellow flowers dotted the occasional patches of waste ground well before its leaves had broken the surface. About three-quarters of a mile out of the village I reached the local rookery in a narrow plantation of beech and oak trees alongside the road. It was established in the late 1940s when there were eight other rookeries within a two-mile radius. Today this small colony is the only one remaining and it has been

declining in recent years. I counted nine nests, and stood to watch the owners flying in, some carrying the materials needed to repair wind damage, whilst four birds appeared to be disputing the ownership of one of the larger structures. Two nests had been built away from the main group, on the other side of the road, each in its own tree, one a silver birch, the other a sycamore. Neither was anywhere near the height of the mature beeches opposite, and the crowns of both, together with respective nests, were swaying ominously in the wind. I finally reached the old brickworks site, where the hawthorns are trees, and spent the remainder of my afternoon watching a pair of stonechats feeding from their perch on a low hedge. Both stood tall, like miniature guardsmen, the male resplendent with black head, white collar and red breast. J M THOMPSON

**The NHS: a diagnosis and a prescription**

THIS month sees the introduction of new guidelines for continuing care within the NHS. My wife suffered a severe stroke 18 months ago, and has been well looked after in NHS hospitals. Partly paralysed, seriously brain-damaged and severely afflicted by painful arthritis, she is totally dependent on nursing care.

Yet it has been made plain to me that, under the new guidelines, her stay in hospital may possibly be terminated, and that an alternative could be transfer to a nursing home, at our own expense until our savings have been largely exhausted.

My wife is, I fear, but one of

many who are threatened by a similar fate. The dehumanisation of Britain's National Health Service is almost complete. Peter Orr, 17 Berkeley Drive, Gulsborough, Cleveland TS14 7LX.

WE welcome John Major's statement that cottage/hospital care should be the cornerstone of health care into the 21st century. However, it rings a little hollow when one considers that, since 1980, some 200 cottage hospitals have been closed. Another 30 are under threat. If the Prime Minister and

the Secretary of State for Health are serious about the future role of cottage/community hospitals, they must announce an immediate moratorium on cottage-hospital closures, veto hospital trusts' closure, seriously consider the need to centralise services on large District General Hospital sites; and establish a working party to examine the role of community hospitals, such as those at Ystradgynlais in South Wales, Burford in Oxfordshire and North Lambeth. Michael Walker, Director, NHS Support Federation, 37-39 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES.

صكنا من الامل



صوتنا من الامل

Diary  
Matthew Norman

SIR Richard Scott's attack on the Civil Service for its "culture of secrecy" has had a predictably potent effect... so potent, indeed, that its head Sir Robin Butler is striving to suppress an Observer survey into Whitehall attitudes. He has written to two of the largest unions (both of which have cooperated with the paper) demanding they stop severing thousands of members filling in questionnaires. A livid Sir Robin warns that the sharing of thoughts on morale, job security, political influence and privatisation would be a breach of the disciplinary code: apparently - and this morsel we should take with a sprinkling of salt - such a survey could undermine Whitehall's "political impartiality". The civil servants themselves are not only ignoring Sir Robin, but are giggling at him as they do so. And perhaps it is a little foolish to threaten people with punishment for answering an entirely anonymous questionnaire.

ALSO preferring anonymity is a Whitehall employee with news of a distressing reaction to the item here about the sudden removal of beef from the Health Department's canteen. Dynamo Dorrell was known to be furious, as was the man responsible for internal management, Joe Pilling. "What makes their discomfiture even more enjoyable," says my correspondent, "is that the canteen is privatised, and simply following the logic of the market. Brilliant."

JOHN Martin writes from Liverpool, impudently asking how many free meals the owner of the Popsicle - the Restaurant of the Month (in Olympia, west London), which serves nothing but steak - supplied in return for "the free advert" on March 24. The answer, Mr Martin, is one. One free advert, one free meal...

THE long-awaited paperback print of Terry Major-Ball's autobiography - Major Major, Memories of An Older Brother (published in May at £7.99) - has arrived. The author himself appears on the cover holding a gnome, alongside this quote from Auberon Waugh: "This brilliantly enjoyable book... A man would have to be made of stone not to find Major Major exquisitely funny." Shortly, Terry leaves aboard a Qantas jet for the Melbourne Flower Show, but will not be promoting his opus there. "Oh no, that would be quite wrong, as I'm going as a guest of the state of Victoria," he tells me. "I'm very much looking forward to it. I'm sure the Australians will all be perfect ladies and gentlemen."

THE postbag to "Kelly's Dilemma" almost bulges. You may recall that the problem facing Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, surrounds a dinner in May at which Uefa head Lennart Johansson is due to speak. Mr Kelly is loath to offend so powerful a figure by boycotting the event because women guests are unwelcome - and yet, having just avoided another do on similar grounds, he has his reputation as football's Aristotle working in to think about. So what should he do? The Reverend Paul Matthews suggests that he does go, but eschewing the black tie in favour of "something pink, frilly and flowing". The answer is as unconvincing as it is absurd: with Mr Kelly's buttermilk complexion, pink would be calamitous.

FROM Cambodia comes a ray of sunshine for our farmers. "The English have 11 million mad cows," says a lively, if inaccurate, leader in the Cambodia Daily, "and this country has roughly the same number of mad landmines. Surely the solution is here before our very eyes in black and white." Because that Lord William Rees-Mogg has joined the paper as chief letter-writer were dismissed yesterday as April Fool merriment.



# Danger — mole and bear on the loose

## Commentary Hugo Young

THIS is a story of the mole burrows in the dark, to make the mounds and tunnels he dare not build by light of day. In this story, the British government, which has often cussed the moles who subvert it by exposure from within, has itself become the subverter of a structure it helped build and pretends to support. It is quietly seeking to undermine the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, in which took the vanguard mole is the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

that London rejected and wouldn't obey. Both lots of words were pretty empty ranting. But now an alternative has emerged. The mole's alternative. Last month, Mr Rifkind circulated a paper inside the Council of Europe, mother lode of the convention and the court, proposing an enforced adjustment in judicial attitudes. The occasion was entitled, because of a massive overload of cases, the court structure is set for a modest streamlining, and Britain thinks it knows what is also needed: greater respect for national laws and practices. Alongside, and if possible overriding, the general human rights defined in the convention, "full regard" should now be paid "to decisions by democratic legislatures and to differing legal traditions". In other words, except for "manifest" violations, let every state do its own thing.

is, first, a breach of the usual separation of powers. He wants ministers to tell the court how it should behave. It's as if the Cabinet were to issue an instruction to the Law Lords to desist from further extensions of judicial review. In that guise, such interference would immediately be intolerable. But the proposal is contaminated, second, by obvious bad faith. It exalts the place of "democratic institutions and tribunals in Member States", as against the place of the Court of Human Rights. Yet Rifkind and his colleagues have spent the past 17 years resisting the incorporation of the convention into British law, by far the most direct route to ensuring its interpretation in accordance with the very "national perceptions" and "differing legal traditions" they're now concerned about.

Europe. What Britain subversively speaks for is a "variable geometry" of human rights. The epicentre of its destructive effect will be Russia. Russia, scandalously, has just been admitted to the Council of Europe on the basis of promises, yet to be anywhere near fulfilled, that she will meet the standards of the human-rights convention. This was not a legal decision but a political one, pushed by Germany and backed by Britain, in the teeth of every objective assessment, including the Council of Europe's own. Russia's suitability in terms of either commitment to democracy, or defence of human rights, or observance of the rule of law. "Variable geometry, in Russia's case, admits into the concept of 'human rights' practices that have no place within even its largest defining circle. The barbarities in Chechnya show utter contempt for minorities. A promise to curb capital punishment, and abolish it within three years, has been followed by a sharp rise in executions authorised by the Yeltsin government on the basis, among other things, that they couldn't afford to keep everyone in prison. The wholly political nature of Russian admission, desired not least because it might take some heat out of pressure to let Russia into Nato, exposes the convention to contempt and seize-up, as the cases multiply and the court is choked by litigants demanding what Moscow will never willingly permit.

hitherto blessed by them, is supposed to counter. It says that neither court nor convention need trouble the politics of governments. And if this does not make the message strong enough, another text will: Britain, along with Germany and France, has said there will be no more money for the court, even though its likely case-load will be doubled. Nor is that the end of our sweetly sibilant duplicity. Conscious that its bona fides might be questioned, the Foreign Office notes, protesting loyalty to the convention that Britain was among the first countries to ratify the decision that the court should, for the sake of efficiency, be streamlined. It omits the earlier fact that, along with Turkey, Britain stood alone in opposing the decision to streamline it in the first place. We did not want any streamlining, positively recoiled from more efficient justice, and now seek to undermine, through these mole-ish suggestions, any chance that fundamental human rights, in a continent suddenly extended towards countries which stand in desperate need of them, will achieve the juridical support they need.

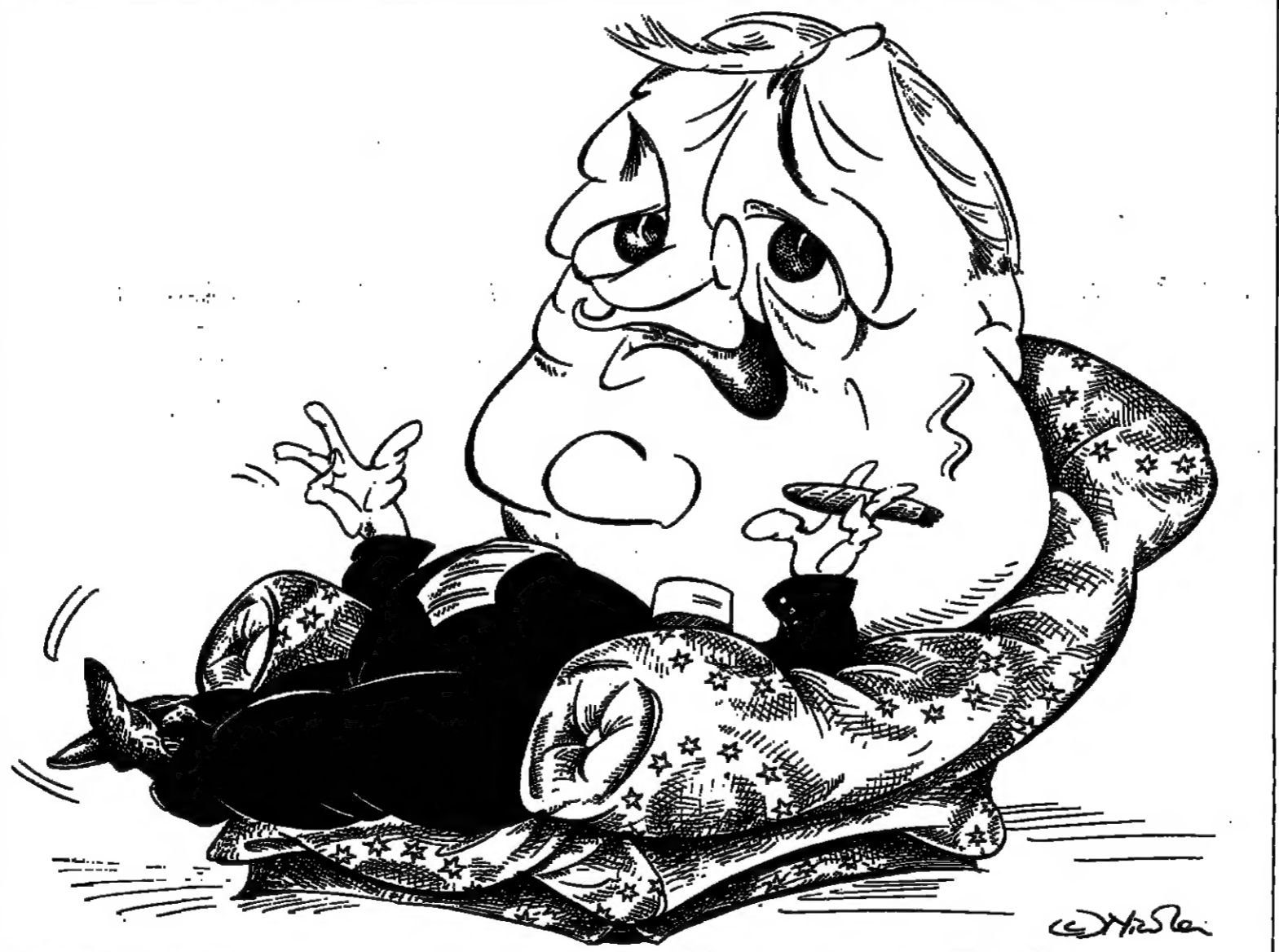
# Peasants' lives ruined by capitalist pigs



George Monbiot

AFRICAN swine fever came to Dominica by way of a ham sandwich on a Spanish airliner. It soon spread down the Artibonite River and over the border into Haiti. The epidemic swiftly killed one-third of that country's pigs, but by late 1981, it seemed to be fizzling out. The US was taking no chances, however. It funded a programme to slaughter every pig in Haiti. To the peasants producing most of Haiti's food, the programme was devastating. Their small black pigs, which largely fended for themselves, were so critical to their economy that the same word was used for "pig" and for "bank". People hid their pigs in holes and caves, but President Duvalier's dreaded Tonton Macoutes rooted the animals out and had them shot. Even quarantined herds were exterminated.

Over the last 30 years the "Green Revolution" - which has introduced new crops and techniques to countries all over the Third World - has led to a tremendous increase in the volume of staple foods as rice, maize and wheat, and has helped to avert the famines predicted in the 60s. But, one by one, its promises of a secure and healthy future are falling away. A report published this week by the International Food Policy Research Institute confirms the surprising information that, even as the amount of calories consumed has risen, the prevalence of nutrition-related diseases such as iron, zinc and vitamin A deficiency has remained unchanged or has even increased. The new high-yield grain varieties are typically lower in critical nutrients than the crops they replaced. Farmers, the institute suggests, should return to varieties they were growing before, modified slightly to produce higher yields. Though they will have to relearn most of what the Green Revolution has encouraged them to unlearn, peasant farmers may not be slow to take the institute's advice. Even in the Punjab, where the Green Revolution has especially been most successful, high-tech farmers are reaping soil erosion, pesticide pollution and water shortages, indebtedness, declining incomes and an unhealthy dependence on expensive farm imports.



# Sitting comfortably

## Will Ken Clarke quit over Europe? Not this week, predicts Michael White - but even his patience with the sceptics of the right has its limits

EVEN for so resilient a politician as Kenneth Clarke it must be daunting to wake up and find you have been tipped the black spot yet again by Blind Pew in the Sun or Daily Mail. That the refrain "Chancellor dangerously isolated over Europe" is happily echoed by the Long John Silvers of the Euro-sceptical Tory right does not make life any easier. Lawson, Rowe, Hurd - eventually Thatcher herself - all recipients of the Mail's black spot, are wise to check their pension rights. Fortunately for liberal Tories, still keen on Europe and the welfare state, their hero bounces back. Clarke is not going to resign over Eastern, though he is capable of resignation. Like Denis Healey, whom he resembles, and Roy Jenkins, whom he likes (and who did resign Labour's deputy leadership over Europe in 1972), there is more to his life than politics. He has hinterland. That is the

not happen. It may or may not end in tears. But it is hard to see any British government, led by Major, Tony Blair or even Michael Fabricant, being there on Day 1. If they contemplated joining on Day 2 or 102 (the British fashion in matters European), Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, his pragmatic Foreign Secretary (and by then his successor?) would probably legislate to abolish the long-suffering pound and submit their decision to a referendum in which collective cabinet unity would be imposed. Which means that the Portillo-Lilley wing of the Cabinet, as firm in their sceptical views as Chancellor Ken, would already have resigned en bloc rather than campaign for a Yes vote. Hilarious, isn't it? So why is a battered cabinet set to grapple tomorrow with such a raddled, hypothetical scenario? Because the right - MPs, Jimmy Goldsmith and press barons alike - smells an opportunity and is correct to do so. It looks at a cabinet in which the pro-Europeans are weaker than they have been since Harold Wilson's cabinet abandoned collective responsibility to campaign Yes and No in the 1975 referendum. Hurd is gone. "Ezzza's past it", the rest, Gummer, Dorrell, Newton, Waldegrave, Hogg, Sir George Young, lack

the clout or resolution for a knock-down fight. When the right falls in behind the leadership's compromise they will acquiesce. That leaves Ken Clarke. No one's idea of a trimmer, he was overheard in a queue last autumn saying: "I told Douglas not to resign because I knew that when he went they would start having a go at me." Hence the whispering campaign. Ken demob-happy because he knows "he's in his last job": Ken on second 10-day foreign trip (first South America, then South Africa) this year. Ken at odds with Major over the size of the public sector - should it be 39 or 38 per cent? Much of it is mischief, and even the laid-back Chancellor has occasionally been moved to make midnight protest calls to Fleet Street or denounce "soap opera stuff" in the despatch box. While Michael Portillo, after an *annus horribilis* in 1995, positions himself as a Major loyalist, Clarke-ite MPs are horrified at the very prospect of their man quitting. Surely, they say, if we win the election it will be thanks to his management of the economy. "Lots of mileage left in old Ken," they tell each other. True, but Clarke is increasingly grumpy with a party which seems to be tipping towards a more sceptical position every time he

turns his back or events give the right a chance to twist the nationalist ratchet. His disgruntlement is plain to senior colleagues and there are signs that Mr Major is tweaking his tail (that plug of it) in retaliation. Clarke is unlikely to resign over a commitment to a referendum. Why should he? It is not a constituent outrage, it is a long way away, and the details will accommodate his view that collective responsibility is essential. More to the point, he is famously a pragmatist, by dint of long experience a Euro-sceptic, not a Heathite federalist. A belt-and-braces man who does not read the Maastricht Treaty would not die for it. This row is about broader tone and direction. Last month Clarke passed Lloyd George's record, 16 years and 318 days in office. He must be tired and has certainly done his share. If the Tories persist in wrapping themselves in the Union Jack and backing away at what he considers necessary "high-quality public services", some as-yet-unforeseen event could make him jack it in. His Treasury predecessors, Lawson and Howe, did just that before the last election and took their prime minister with them. Everyone remembers that. It is another reason for Mr Major to be nicer to Ken.



## The solution he's drinking could save his life. And it only costs 10p.

All over the world, children like Mekonnen are suffering from dehydration. A condition caused by acute diarrhoea which claims the lives of over 8,000 children every day of the year. But these children are dying needlessly. Because a simple solution of clean water, salt and sugar is often all it takes to help them alive. As little as 10p will buy a special sachet of rehydration salts to save the life of a child like Mekonnen. £10 from you could help save 100 children. And it could help train workers to administer this and other vital health care. Please return this coupon with your donation today, or dial 0171-701 0894 with your credit card details. Thank you. Save the Children Fund, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR. Your £10 could help save 100 children. Yes, I want to help Save the Children. Please accept my gift of: £30 £15 £10 Other £. Name Mr/Ms/Ms. Address: Postcode: I enclose my: Cash  Postal Order  Cheque  CAV  Or charge my: Access  AmEx  Visa  Diners  CAF Card  Account No. Signature: Card Expiry Date: Save the Children. Return to: Dept. 609/130. Save the Children. FREEPOST. London SE5 8BR. Registered Charity No. 213680.



Dante Giacosa

# Auto art for plebs

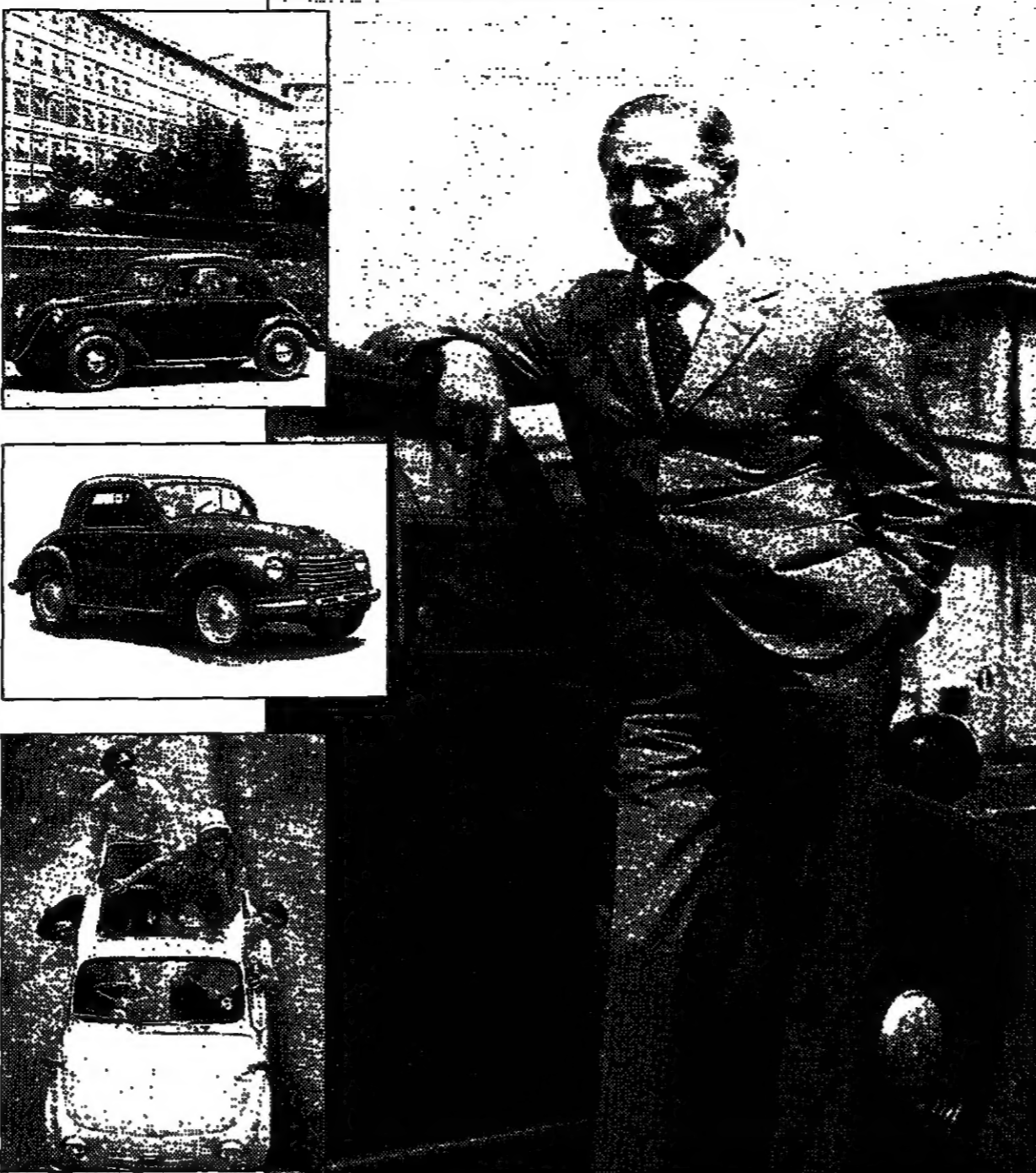
**G**IOVANNI Alberto Agnelli, nephew of the famous Fiat chairman Gianni, lives in a Tuscan house designed by Michelangelo and drives a car designed by another Italian of rare genius, Dante Giacosa. Like every Italian over 25, the younger Agnelli and future chairman of Fiat (known as Giovanni) learnt to drive in a Fiat Cinquecento, Giacosa's masterpiece, Italy's people's car and the car which made Fiat. With Andre Citroen and Ferdinand Porsche behind the second world war, and Alec Issigonis after it, Giacosa was one of the architects of the modern European car.

Giacosa, who has aged 91, was born in Rome and studied mechanical engineering at Turin's Politecnico before joining the Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino (Fiat) conglomerate in 1926. His first job was as a designer of liquid-cooled engines, but he soon turned his attention to cars when he transferred to Fiat's Futurist Lingotto plant (the one with the test track on the roof) in 1929 as chief of the technical office.

Given the brief for "Senator" to develop a well-engineered, sophisticated, but quintessentially simple, small car for less than 5000 lire (about half the price of the cheapest existing Fiat), Giacosa produced a prototype called Zero A and was photographed with it atop the Antracite Pass during a test session in which the car roared at 82kph on the Turin-Milan autostrada. Zero A, a tiny machine, but with real car character and grown-up looks, went into production as the 500A in 1936.

Affectionately named Topolino (Little Mouse) in honour of its cute and chubby aspect, not to mention its manoeuvrability, the Cinquecento was not only at 3.2m length the smallest car in production, but also the greatest advance in small car design since the Austin 7 of 1922 and, amazingly for a car with a minimalist water-cooled, four-cylinder 20bhp engine, became the best-selling import in the US in 1938-39.

It is fascinating that the three greatest car designs of the 1930s all acquired serial nicknames and were all created as a result of dictatorial



The mouse that roared... Dante Giacosa with his people's car — (top to bottom) the 1936 Zero A or Topolino, a sleeker 1949 version, and the familiar Nuova Cinquecento, in continuous production from 1957 until 1972

Warren, Michigan, and pronounced himself impressed with what he called a "modern Versailles", but his interpretation of the car could not have been more different from Chevrolet's: the 500 had a rear-mounted 490cc air-cooled twin in a body design that was ingenious; there were few sharp corners or exposed seams and, unusual in the 1930s, the doors were virtually one-piece pressings. Major components were bolted directly to the bodywork, the engine and gearbox being attached at only two points. Like Olivetti, the little Fiat became a symbol of Italy's *ricostruzione* and of the democratic modernity of Italian design. In 1959, the Nuova Cinquecento won the 1959 Compasso d'Oro, Italy's design Oscars.

In 1946 Giacosa was made responsible for all the group's vehicles, including tractors and trucks, and retired in 1970 after nearly half a century of benign innovation. His larger 1955 Seicento never had the appeal of the "cinque", but was immensely successful in its own right and was the basis for the extraordinary Multiple of 1968, whose imaginative door layout and three rows of seats give it a claim, 20 years after the Renault Espace, to be the very first of today's MPVs, although Fiat never took advantage of this lead.

Giacosa was also responsible for the 1967 124 and the 1968 126. The latter was undoubtedly the best engineered small-medium car of its day and the former is with us still today... as the Russian Lada: when Fiat built an enormous car plant at the new town of Togliatti, named after the then chairman of the Italian Communist Party, Giacosa's rugged 124 was chosen as the vehicle most adaptable to Soviet tastes and technology.

Dante Giacosa's elegant autobiography, *I miei quarant'anni di progettazione alla Fiat* was published in 1979. He will always be remembered for the Fiat Cinquecento, a car that is not just a pleasant and ingenious vehicle; it has become one of the symbols of our century, an everyday work of art.

**Stephen Bayley**

Gerald Savory

# Dramatics of live television

**G**ERALD SAVORY was a well-connected young actor in the 1930s — his parents were West End theatre names whose first play, George Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara*, was a smash hit. A quarter of a century later, after a stint in North America, he turned from acting and dramaturgy and became a prominent figure in British television drama at a time when productions were broadcast live and watched by millions.

The play that made Savory's name in 1937 was one of those "crazy family" comedies like Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*. Although the dialogue was neither witty nor the situation original, everything rang amusingly true, if banal. Savory's work was full of light-hearted fun and it had a twist: the spongy couple of its title (the long-awaited, long-dreaded guests) don't turn up until after the final curtain. By that point a then unknown actress, a drama hand, had set the house on a roar with a three-minute "spot" as an inaudible Cockney parlour maid.

Savory went to Broadway with the play when it transferred after two years in the West End but it ran for only two months. Nevertheless he stayed on as an actor and after stints on Broadway he tried Hollywood script-writing for MGM. When he shifted at both the text of *Ninotchka* and its leading lady, Greta Garbo, Savory's engagement was ended before he could return to his office.

Later, while touring in summer stock he learnt about directing plays for the new medium, television. A then unknown actress Grace Kelly, whose father ran a television station in Chicago, led him into a new career as a television director. Returning to England in the 1950s to see one of his West End plays led to television work and, as a director or producer of new writers, Savory had to contend with or cultivate radical new authors like Dennis Potter and David Mercer. What a theatre audience tolerated was not necessarily acceptable to the mass medium of television. When Potter wanted Prince Charming to strangle Cinderella, for example, Savory suspended broadcast. Savory also had to apologise publicly for upset-

Peter Clemeos

# New life in old words

**P**ETER Clemeos, who has died aged 76, was a quietly effective figure who transformed the field of Anglo-Saxon studies. Born in Southampton, he was educated at Brentwood, Essex, but the second world war thwarted an early ambition to be an actor, just after he had won a place at Rada.

He passed a relatively quiet war in Egypt and Germany, before enrolling to study English at Queen Mary College, London, from where he moved on to do postgraduate work at King's College, Cambridge, under Bruce Dickson — to whom Clemeos expressed a profound debt for undertaking to direct a student "at the awkward age of over 30".

After gaining his doctorate in 1956, for a ground-breaking edition of the *First Series of Catholic Homilies of Aelfric*, a 10th-century Anglo-Saxon text, Clemeos found a stimulating clarity of thought and expression matched his own. Clemeos spent five years in Reading University, before being appointed to what was to become the Cambridge Department of



Clemeos... late starter

national Society of Anglo-Saxons, over whose second conference he presided in 1983. From 1985, founding director of the Anglo-Saxonist journal *Anglo-Saxonica*, a register of written sources used in Anglo-Saxon England. All these ventures continue to thrive, even after he withdrew from their daily running.

Retirement gave Clemeos more chance to work on individual projects, and his two final publications offer an insight into the mark of the man. *Intersections of Thought and Language in Old English Poetry* (1995) was an intensely

personal and thought-provoking study on the thought and language of Old English poetry, based on 40 years close reading in the texts; a mighty task, the impact of which is still being assessed, and will be felt for many years.

The second, *Is Anglo-Saxon Boring?*, was a light-hearted article, which appeared last month in the *Emmanuel College* newsletter. It offered a spirited attempt to convey to the bed-makers of the college the secret of the college he loved just what it was that excited him about Old English. Clemeos remained a daily presence in college until the end, quiet getting on with it; when his health allowed, he would cycle down from Chertton, whose church and community he supported for many years.

The day before he died he worked in college through the morning on the proof of his great edition of *Aelfric*, now all but complete after more than four decades; lunch, followed by the customary game of bowls in the fellows' garden; more proofs; a tea-time chat with a colleague on an arcane point of Old English; home to his wife Jean, to whom he was devoted.

**Andy Orchard**

Peter Clemeos, Anglo-Saxon scholar, born January 20, 1920; died March 16, 1996

U San Yu

# Tight-lipped dictator

**G**ENERAL SAN YU, who has died aged 77, was Burma's president from 1981 to 1988 and an influential and trusted figure under General Ne Win's military dictatorship for nearly 30 years. It was in 1962 that Ne Win sent the civilian politicians packing, and San Yu became a member of the ruling revolutionary council.

Born in Prome of Sino-Burmese ancestry, he gave up his Rangoon medical studies to join Aung San's Japanese-backed Burma Independence Army in the later stages of the second world war, remained in the army post-war and held senior commands after independence in 1948. In March 1974, Burma became a one-party state, under a nominally civilian constitution drawn up under San Yu's supervision.

In 1976 San Yu was a target of a failed assassination plot by a group of junior officers. Subsequently Ne Win purged the ruling party and the army's services, but as the party's secretary general, San Yu attempted to implement the coup plotters' ideas at a time when official policy partners won some acceptance — yet neither Ne Win nor San Yu were flexible enough to pursue economic reform.

In 1981 San Yu succeeded Ne Win as president, but Ne Win remained the ultimate authority and engineered in 1988 San Yu's dismissal. There followed the short-lived Rangoon spring and its brutal suppression.

Those who knew San Yu say he was polite and likeable. During a visit to Burma by Princess Anne, the normally reserved and tight-lipped President San Yu surprised his British guests by expressing admiration for her work for Save the Children, at a time when official policy was to exclude all foreign voluntary organisations from Burma.

**William Crawley**

U San Yu, soldier and politician, born 1916; died January 29, 1996

Memoriam

**MARSHALL, J. Richard**, 1911/145 - 24/95 Always loved and sorely missed by Dilly, Dilly's wife and Dilly's daughter. A doer for the soul.

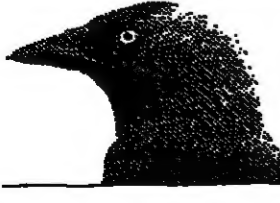
**MARSHALL, J. Richard**, died April 2nd 1996 aged 84 years. To his best and dearest friend, remembered with love, respect and affection. A friend.

**MARSHALL, J. Richard**, died April 2nd 1996 aged 84 years. To his best and dearest friend, remembered with love, respect and affection. A friend.

**MARSHALL, J. Richard**, died April 2nd 1996 aged 84 years. To his best and dearest friend, remembered with love, respect and affection. A friend.

**MARSHALL, J. Richard**, died April 2nd 1996 aged 84 years. To his best and dearest friend, remembered with love, respect and affection. A friend.

Jackdaw



New weight

**I**N MON RA, a novel by Victor Pelevin published in 1992, the eponymous hero declares: "I realise at once and early on that only weightlessness can give me genuine freedom, that is why all my life I've been bored by all those Western radio voices and those books by various Solzhenitsyns. In my heart, of course, I loathed a state whose silent menace obliged every group of people who came together, even if only for a few seconds, to zealously imitate the vilest and basest individual among them." There, in two sentences, Pelevin delivers the judgment of

his generation — he is in his early thirties, on both the Soviet system, and its sternest critics. This careless tossing aside of both totalitarianism and dissidence, of the "various Solzhenitsyns" along with a state of "silent menace", has become an essential posture for [writers]... struggling to cope with the ruins of a universe once entirely populated by good and evil figures.

The writers who have become known as the "new" Russians are sometimes not new, not very young and not very official cynicism while it was still in business, and official anti-communism when it was still being punished. As they have won wider recognition at home and abroad — attended by a barrage of criticism from the sixties generation, who regard them as an abomination — they have become bolder. In one sense — as Russian critics have noted — these writers are the first social realists: they depict the reality that socialist realism forbade. However we know that there is a legal and moral problem in punishing some-

one for someone else's crimes. I would suggest a new policy. A condition for entry permits for Arabs from Judea, Samaria and Gaza would be the presentation of five guarantors, whose homes would serve as security. It would not only solve the legal and moral problem, but would speed up the process when it needs to be used. We could say, perhaps, that for car theft, we blow up two houses, for knife attacks, we blow up all five houses and deport the residents — all that by pre-agreed contract based on informed consent. And it might well reduce the number of Arabs entering our urban areas — especially if we computerise the system and allow no house to be used for more than say three guarantors at any one time.

*Israel Pickholtz brings wisdom to bear on the problem of Jews and Arabs co-existing in the letters pages of the Jerusalem Post.*

**I**n music with a psychic, spiritual force behind it — the kind that will survive into the 21st century, Gawain also happens to be very accessible. "He would like to stage *Arcturion* in Amsterdam, and is not put off by Punch And Judy's poor reception there, saying the size of the theatre was partly to blame. He believes that if Stockhausen were willing to "let go" of his works, his operas would be more widely circulated and appreciated. "But he insists on producing them himself, he wants them performed by his own family and associates. I think he's one of the great composers of the century, because what inspires his work is true artistic invention, true command of the resources musically, theatrically, aurally. Messiaen's *Saint Francis is another extraordinary piece of music theatre which connects with an audience. And I'm convinced that when Boulez finally writes his opera, it will be as extraordinary as Falla's.*"

Opera houses have a responsibility to be the breeding ground for new work, but it has to come from the heart and soul of the artist. Life With An Idiot was a spontaneous work, fundamentally original, and that's what interested me. I'm doing the same with *György Kurtág*, but it's very hard. I can't say: "Here are the dates for you, here's an orchestra." I just have to keep meeting him, which I have been doing for

eight years, in the hope that one day we will get a work from him. I think he can produce something extraordinary. That's what I'm seeking — a rapport with artists, to allow an idea to emerge, to give them the feeling it can be anything and to be there to receive it when it comes. *Pierre Audi, who made his name at the Almeida Theatre in London and is now director of the Netherlands Opera, interviewed in Opera Magazine.*

**W**ired words

**BEEFLEPSY:** The brief set-ups some sometimes suffer when their beepers go off, especially in vibrator mode. Characterised by physical spasms, goofy facial expressions and stotping speech in mid-sentence.

**SALMON DAY:** The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get scowed by the end.

**CLIENT-SERVER ATTY:** Geek euphemism for having sex. "I went to the Oracle party the other night hoping for a little client-server attention."

**CRASH TEST DUMMIES:** Those of us who pay for unstable, not-ready-for-prime-time software marketed by greedy computer companies.

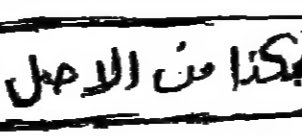
**PETER PANNING:** The process of re-attaching a shadow to an object in a computer graphics application such as Photoshop. Those who Peter Pan are Wendy's.

**WAD WIDOW:** A significant other who hardly ever sees his/her mate because she/she is so busy creating WAD scenarios for use in the (computer) games Doom, Doom II or Heretic.

**ALTA VISTA FODDER:** A list of misspellings and reformulations of your name, appended to your web site so that anyone searching can find your URL. The latest instalment of *Wired* magazine's Jargon Watch.

**Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713-4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.**

**Dan Glaister**





Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

Britain accuses EC of back-door protectionism as Lille summit puts 'social clause' on agenda

## G7 heads for deep rift over labour rights

Larry Elliott in Lille

**T**HE festering row among the West's leading industrial nations over linking free trade to human rights will burst into the open today when the European Commission for minimum global labour standards is set to split the Group of Seven down the middle. Pádraig Flynn, the EC Social Affairs Commissioner, will argue that free collective bargaining, free association and the abolition of child labour are fundamental rights that do not threaten competitiveness. But Britain, supported by Canada and Japan, claims that the move is an attempt to defend the high-cost economies of the West from international competition and represents "protectionism by the back door". The UK had been adamant in the run-up to the Lille jobs summit that the so-called "social clause" should be left off the agenda, arguing that the meeting should focus on finding long-term solutions to the West's chronic unemployment problem. However, French President Jacques Chirac, devoted a

large chunk of his opening address to the need for "a few basic rules" to govern the greater freedom of trade ushered in by the conclusion of the seven-year Uruguay round of trade liberalisation talks. With Pat Buchanan's brand of protectionism finding an echo in the United States, Mr Chirac said a lack of even the most rudimentary labour standards in some developing countries encouraged industrialised nations to turn their back on free trade. This theme will be taken up by Mr Flynn today at an informal lunch to close the summit. He is expected to say that "all over the world public opinion is becoming increasingly sensitive to the question of linking trade and employment standards. This means that the issue must be faced and talked about. It simply can't be ducked or avoided." Mr Flynn will add that Europe's desire to see the matter aired was the reason it had recommended that the first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore in December should set up a working group to investigate. William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the WTO was the

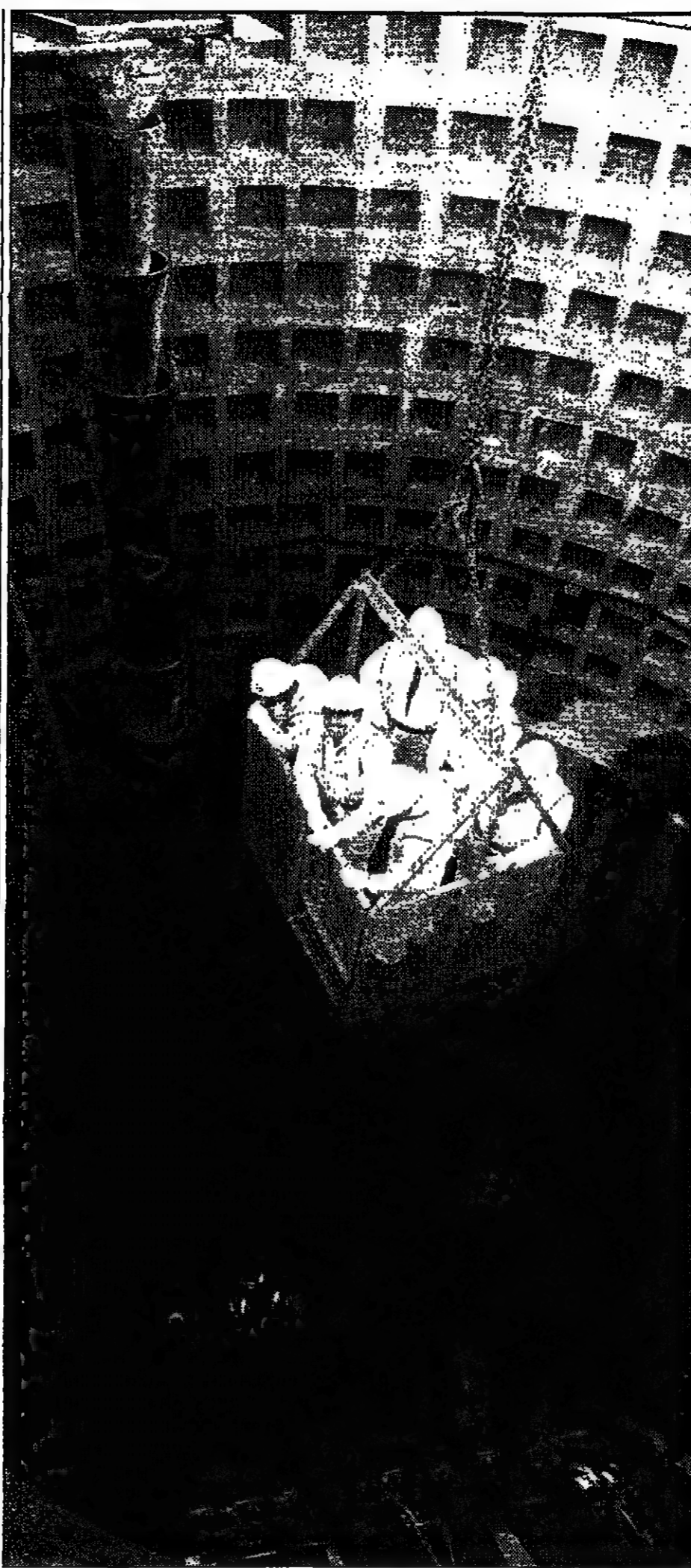
wrong forum for employment practices to be discussed. "There is a great danger of protectionism coming in through the back door. We are sceptical about the use of the WTO. Some of the benefits of the WTO could immediately be undermined." Mr Chirac stressed that "harmonious development of world trade" would be vital if the West was to find a "third way" between the endemic job insecurity in North America and Europe's chronic level of unemployment. The French President added that public opinion in the West could accept that lower wages, less extensive social security and different labour laws enabled developing countries to compete successfully for export markets. But he warned that other aspects of labour markets in developing countries would not be tolerated. "Can it be accepted that fundamental rules of social democracy be so grievously stretched in this great worldwide market? Can more or less disguised forms of adult or child slavery be tolerated? The citizens of our countries are becoming better and better informed about such forms of abuse and rightly judge them to be intolerable."

## Job security is safe in our hands, Shephard says

**E**MPLOYMENT Secretary Gillian Shephard fired the first shots yesterday in a government counter-offensive against perceptions of job insecurity. *writes Larry Elliott in Lille.* She mounted a strong defence of the UK's labour market policies over the past 17 years. Speaking at the Group of Seven jobs summit in Lille, northern France, Mrs Shephard said it was impossible for any administration to offer jobs for life but the Government was seeking to deliver "security of employability". With a year at most to go before the next election, the Government is increasingly

concerned about the threat to consumer confidence posed by job insecurity. Labour has taken up the theme as a key part of its campaign strategy, believing it will check the return of the "feelgood factor". Mrs Shephard admitted that the transformation to a more flexible labour market in Britain had involved "a lot of pain" but added that the rest of continental Europe was now starting to follow suit. She said there was no statistical evidence to support the notion that jobs had become less secure in recent years. The average time spent in a job was 6.5 years — the same as 10 years ago —

while 86 per cent of part-time workers did not want to work full-time. Britain had only half France's number of people on short-term contracts. Mrs Shephard conceded there was a "perception" that insecurity was on the increase. "What has to be grasped is that there is this feeling within people, and we are dealing with that by our education and training reforms." Ministers at the jobs summit — the follow-up to a gathering in Detroit two years ago — are looking for ways to reduce the total of 22 million jobless people in the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada.



Depth charge... Energy minister Tim Eggar (front, centre) was given an inside view of a six-mile tunnel bearing London Electricity's new £22 million circuit for south-west London, before it was commissioned yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

## Notebook A tighter tap on the water firms

Edited by Alex Brummer

**N**OW that the outrage over remuneration in the electricity utilities has passed, at least temporarily, the water companies look extraordinarily exposed. Yorkshire has already heaped opprobrium and ridicule on the whole industry; the Thames chief executive has paid with his job for the hubris of expanding into the deregulated sector of the market; and the regulator, Ian Byatt, can barely disguise his irritation at the industry's failure to respond to his own proposals last summer to introduce a degree of competition into the industry. Now Mr Byatt has the Government firmly on his side. Under the new scheme, industrial firms will have the freedom to buy from the cheapest water source, presumably in the hope of ratcheting down prices. But this may be more difficult in the water industry than in gas or electricity, since there is no national grid in water and the cost of moving water long distances is prohibitive. Nevertheless, there is the possibility that greater competition could improve domestic access to water in times of shortage and eventually bring down prices. However, if any of this is to work Mr Byatt will need to come down hard on his charges. It is unacceptable that they have been so slow in responding to competition demands and have wasted management resources on expansion into deregulated markets, when they have failed to make a decent fist of their own role in the regulated market. But Labour, which complains loudly, has a problem: it once threatened to take the water companies back into public ownership. Having sprung from that option, its complaints will carry much less clout.

and understate recovery. Nevertheless, the pain is acute. It may be that it is even more sharply felt because it is unevenly distributed. Expensive consumer goods in shops and showrooms across the old Soviet bloc bear witness to the fact that some have profited mightily, if not always honestly, from the changes. But pensioners, who have seen their fixed incomes soar beyond their income, are unlikely to care much about the efficient allocation of resources. Indeed, the region's voters are showing signs of disillusion. Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria, for example, have elected former Communists back into power. The economic figures may be improving, but the feel-good factor has yet to emerge. And this summer it is Russia's turn to go to the polls.

### Humpty Dumpty

**I**T SEEMS incredible that after one of the longest and most complex anti-trust cases in US business history, resulting in the break-up of the old AT&T into a series of regional Bell companies in 1984, Humpty Dumpty is being put back together again. The merger between SBC Communications of Texas and Pacific Telesis of California may only be worth a mere \$11 billion (against the \$28 billion BT/Cable & Wireless proposal), but it heralds a new phase in the US telecommunications industry. The new telecoms bill, steered through Congress by Vice-President Al Gore, was designed to free telecom, cable and other networks from the regulations which might prevent the United States from building an information superhighway, led by Hollywood's entertainment software industry, which would lead the world. The combined Texas and Californian group, to be known from now on as SBC Communications, will have its headquarters in San Antonio and provide long-distance, internet and international services from San Francisco. The deal leaves open the possibility that SBC will choose to grow further or could be sucked into the new demerged AT&T — currently breaking itself down into three separate companies, telecoms, computers and telephone hardware — as the US telecoms industry reforms for the communications age. Although the united baby bells will, for now, not be strong competition for the real giants of international telecommunications such as BT and Japan's NTT, they will be monitoring events carefully. AT&T is thought to have designs upon the UK Mercury network, which the competition authorities certainly will want to see demerged from BT/C&W. Given the potential size of an agglomeration of AT&T and the former baby bells, BT may be right to be looking for a European buyer for Mercury, rather than letting the American eagle into its sphere of influence.

### Income blocs

**T**HE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is modestly upbeat in its latest assessment of the progress being made by the former Soviet bloc countries, from central planning to market-based economies. But it is clear that the process is entering a difficult, perhaps crucial, phase. Five years on, not one country in eastern and central Europe and what was the Soviet Union has seen output recover to pre-1990 levels. Only two are expected to do so within the next two years. Indeed, according to the raw data, many are in much worse shape than before. The EBRD is rightly careful to note that the official figures may overstate decline.

### Eight Standard directors share £13m paper profit

**D**irectors at Standard Chartered are sitting on share option packages with a "paper profit" of more than £13.6 million, according to figures disclosed in the bank's annual report. The value of their rolling incentive scheme was boosted by the award of additional options worth nearly £2 million over the past 12 months — a period which has seen Standard's share price soar on take-over speculation. The bank's shares yesterday climbed another 12p to 621p, compared with a year's low of 545p. The directors have accumulated shares worth a further £2.16 million under a "restricted share scheme". Directors are barred, however, from selling any of their entitlement from either scheme for at least three years after the allotment is granted. The report shows pension contributions made for executive directors rose from £452,000 to £895,843 over the full-year period. Most of the increase is understood to have come from additional payments made for an overseas director asked to stay on after the normal expatriate retirement age of 55. Overall pay and cash bonuses for the board increased from £2.48 million to £4.11 million over the past 12 months. Group chief executive Malcolm Williamson saw his salary rise by £48,000 to £273,000. Chairman Patrick Gillam's remuneration increased by £87,000 to £594,000.

## Banks shy from nuclear sell-off

Simon Beevis  
Industrial Editor

**T**HE Government faces an uphill struggle in assembling a syndicate of banks to handle its £2.6 billion nuclear privatisation, amid growing signs that leading City players are unenthusiastic about optimistic forecasts for the industry. Banks wishing to be global co-ordinators have until April 10 to apply to the Government and a shortlist is likely to be selected the following week. But worries about the forecasts drawn up by the Government's own advisers, Barclays de Zoete Wedd. There is particular concern over predictions that the industry can improve the performance of the seven advanced gas-cooled reactors being sold alongside the Sizewell B pressurised water reactor in Suffolk. BZW is assuming the reactors will achieve output levels of 82.5 per cent, way ahead of the industry average of nearer 70 per cent. There are also fears that BZW's assumptions on future wholesale electricity prices in the so-called pool are too generous. The bank predicts prices will remain at 2.3p a kilowatt hour, although City experts are convinced they could collapse. The two issues are key to the valuation of British Energy, the company formed by the Government to own the

reactors after the sell-off in July. BZW has hinted that, based on its assumptions, the value of the industry would be £2.4 billion-£2.6 billion. But the City disputes this. One source said there was a growing view that the forecasts were "at the top". Another said the valuations were "absurd" and "wildly optimistic". Gordon MacKerron, a leading independent expert on nuclear economics, has argued that output levels from the reactors would imply a valuation of nearer £1 billion. He estimates the industry could have zero value if output slipped back towards 65 per cent. Unusually, the Government hinted at top in its White Paper on nuclear power. That indicated the sell-off would produce at least £2.6 billion.

## Factory freeze stokes recession fear

Sarah Ryle

**F**EARS that Britain's manufacturing industry is heading for recession were strengthened last night as a survey of producers showed that the factory sector had been stagnant for the last seven months. Despite improving demand for consumer goods, the monthly Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply survey for March made clear that the poor performance of other sectors had put downward pressure on the manufacturing economy. The outcome of the survey, which gives a snapshot of

factory activity, was a third consecutive fall in the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The heading rate was below 50 per cent for the second month, indicating contraction. Adam Cole, an economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "The overall PMI suggested that manufacturing output could fall in the first quarter of this year. This would be the second successive quarterly fall, leaving the sector officially back in recession." Manufacturers were still struggling with stock overhangs, CIPS said, which led to price slashing and deliberate restraint on output. Factory-gate prices

registered their biggest fall since the survey began in July 1991, and output fell to its lowest level since October 1992. Despite the cuts in production, stocks rose in 20 per cent of companies, reflecting weak domestic and foreign demand. Firms laid off workers for the third month in a row. But City analysts said the weakness of the March survey would not push the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, into cutting interest rates after tomorrow's monthly meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George.

CIPS said improved demand for consumer goods meant that some sectors within manufacturing were registering growth, thereby creating a "two-tiered manufacturing economy". Separate data from the Bank of England showed continued if slightly slower growth of notes and coins in the system during March, providing new evidence that high-street spending was healthy. Although the Chancellor and the Governor were expected to take note of the PMI, the consensus view among City analysts was that there would be no base rate reduction before May.

## Dial SBC-Pacific for merger

Mark Tross in New York and Nicholas Barnister

**A** \$16.7 billion (£11 billion) merger agreement between SBC Communications and Pacific Telesis was announced yesterday — the first combination of regional telephone companies since Congress deregulated America's telecommunications industry last month. The alliance will create the United States' second largest telecommunications company after AT&T, the long-distance company, and will hasten the consolidation of the world's telecoms industry into a handful of powerful players

The move came the same day as Ian Lang, the UK Trade and Industry Secretary, warned that the expected £36 billion merger between British Telecom and Cable & Wireless would have to be cleared by a number of authorities, including the Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission. Mr Lang denied he had already agreed in principle to the deal. But a department spokesman said it was not unusual for companies to have informal discussions with officials who would advise about what was required. Advisers to the two UK telecom groups are still seeking to clear obstacles to the merger, including how to

treat their respective German alliances. Vebacom, C&W's joint venture with the conglomerate Veba, is near to completing a deal with another German group, Mannesmann, to build a national telecom network to compete with Deutsche Telekom. BT's alliances with Viag and RWE are thought to be less advanced. The US groups SBC and Pacific Telesis are among the seven Baby Bells that sprung into existence after the government-ordered breakup of the original AT&T, or Ma Bell, in 1984. Wall Street has been waiting for such a merger ever since Congress approved legislation that allowed all sectors of telecommunications to

compete with each other. Telephone companies, broadcasters and cable operators are now free to enter each others' markets. The Baby Bells can expect a furious assault from their more efficient long-distance rivals — AT&T, Spring and MCI (BT's US partner). Two other regional telephone companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex on the East coast, have discussed a merger but disagreed on price. Pacific Telesis and SBC serve the two largest states, California and Texas. The merged company will have more than 100,000 employees, operating cash flow of \$9 billion (£5.8 billion) and income of almost \$3 billion.

treating their respective German alliances. Vebacom, C&W's joint venture with the conglomerate Veba, is near to completing a deal with another German group, Mannesmann, to build a national telecom network to compete with Deutsche Telekom. BT's alliances with Viag and RWE are thought to be less advanced. The US groups SBC and Pacific Telesis are among the seven Baby Bells that sprung into existence after the government-ordered breakup of the original AT&T, or Ma Bell, in 1984. Wall Street has been waiting for such a merger ever since Congress approved legislation that allowed all sectors of telecommunications to

compete with each other. Telephone companies, broadcasters and cable operators are now free to enter each others' markets. The Baby Bells can expect a furious assault from their more efficient long-distance rivals — AT&T, Spring and MCI (BT's US partner). Two other regional telephone companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex on the East coast, have discussed a merger but disagreed on price. Pacific Telesis and SBC serve the two largest states, California and Texas. The merged company will have more than 100,000 employees, operating cash flow of \$9 billion (£5.8 billion) and income of almost \$3 billion.

### Patrick Donnan City Editor

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS

Australia 1,8650	France 7,43	Italy 2,245	Singapore 2,10
Austria 15,25	Germany 2,20	Malta 8,54	South Africa 1,88
Belgium 45,00	Greece 352,00	Netherlands 2,4675	Spain 183,75
Canada 2,01	Hong Kong 11,58	New Zealand 2,18	Sweden 10,07
Cyprus 0,8850	India 52,02	Norway 3,25	Switzerland 1,70
Denmark 8,40	Ireland 0,8550	Portugal 227,25	Turkey 500,00
Finland 7,01	Israel 4,76	Saudi Arabia 5,66	USA 1,49

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupees and Israeli sheqel)



# BCCI victims win a point against Bank

Dan Atkinson

An unprecedented half-billion pound lawsuit against the Bank of England can go ahead — but only if lawyers persuade a High Court judge of their case at a hearing expected on April 26. Barristers acting for depositors in the Bank of Commerce and Credit International will need to show Bank officers were to blame for the losses.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Clarke held that the ancient legal injury of "misfeasance in public office" could generally be held against the Bank — victory for the depositors. But he provisionally rejected the argument that the Bank could be held liable in the BCCI case.

Were it possible to show the depositors' losses were capable of being caused in law by the alleged misfeasance, then he would reverse this decision. At the April 26 hearing, the depositors will try to persuade him.

BCCI was shut down by worldwide regulatory action, led by the Bank of England, in July 1991. Liquidators found as much as \$20 billion (£13.3 billion) missing, making BCCI the biggest fraud of all time. The writ was brought by liquidators De-

Loitte & Touche in May 1993 on behalf of 6,000 UK depositors believed to have lost \$566 million. It alleges that the Bank should not have given BCCI its original 1979 licence and that, having done so, it ought to have taken action earlier. It further alleges the Bank ought to have established "consolidated supervision" of BCCI in concert with other regulators.

BCCI was not officially based in Britain, but ran key treasury operations from London. Mr Justice Clarke, at yesterday's pre-trial hearing, said that, if the case were to go ahead, it had to clear three hurdles: was the Bank liable for misfeasance? were the losses caused in law by the Bank's wrongdoing? and were all BCCI depositors entitled to claim?

His judgment was no to the first point, but added: "If my answer to [question two]... were yes, my answer to this question would also be yes." On question two, he gave a provisional no, but said further submission would be heard. He ruled yes to question three, in principle.

The liquidators are believed to be confident of changing his mind. The Bank of England said it was pleased with yesterday's provisional judgment.



Smoked out... customs officers at Dover discover cigarettes hidden beneath beer cartons. They have the power to seize both the contents and the vehicle. PHOTOGRAPH BY GARRY WEASER

# Bootleggers take a kicking



However liberal the rest of Europe may be, alcohol and tobacco entering British ports must be for personal use to avoid VAT. And 800 pints of lager does seem a little over the top. In the latest of our series, SARAH RYLE visits Dover docks

**W**AITING on a cold morning for cross-Channel passengers to disembark onto the anti-bootlegging team at Dover's Eastern Docks was convinced there would be enough seizures of beer and tobacco to keep the office paperwork stacked high.

"Bootleggers don't mind the cold," said one Customs & Excise official. "There is no off-peak season for them. In fact, they can travel more often now because the ferries are smaller and the trips are much cheaper. With the deals on at the moment, you can get across to Calais for £1."

Within minutes of the ferry doors opening, the first three vans fitting the bootlegger profile ("almost all white Transits, you look for a low axle too") were pulled over and searched.

The object of the drama played hourly at Dover and other British ports is to convince the Excise Verification Officers (EVOs) that the boot-

van was taken too, although the customs officers had difficulty driving it to the pound because the key had broken off in the ignition and the motor had to be started with a string.

Shortly afterwards, an EVO was summoned to the foot-passenger terminal by anti-drugs colleagues. A young lad who fitted the Customs & Excise profile for cannabis smugglers had been pulled over with two large holdalls containing 13.7kg (30lb) of hand-rolling tobacco. He had a receipt for £3,000 and the duty on each kilo was about £87 — if he couldn't pay, the tobacco would be seized. He had been stopped before.

Officials said he was typical of the army of "donkeys" who operate in gangs for bosses around the country. For £30 cash in hand and the fare, a young, unemployed lad will cross to Calais to do the buying.

The donkeys put up in bed-and-breakfasts in Dover, officials said, and fill vans bound for all parts of Britain in the small hours of the morning. They come from areas where unemployment is high and expectations low.

They tell tall stories about acts of fantastic generosity. A couple of thousand pounds' worth of tobacco was for friends, according to one regular traveller from the North-east. The capital outlay had come from savings.

Dover's assistant collector, Eric Keen said that if the bootleggers were to be believed, Britain's social fabric

had never been stronger — what with all the presents and surprise parties being given, not to mention the increase in weddings.

In three hours at the Eastern Docks there were seven seizures. But greater manpower would have boosted the tally. Even as his fellow officers searched three vans, another could only watch more likely bootleggers roll past.

If the UK Parliament had not laid down constraints, it would be perfectly legal to



Steve Clement of Customs & Excise with seized booty

bring any amount of drink or tobacco across the Channel. There have been no restrictions within the European Union since April 1993.

But Parliament has limited the volume here to personal use. Mr Keen stressed that his staff were not there to enforce limits. They are there to ensure that VAT is paid on everything that the British government has deemed it should be paid on.

Customs & Excise headquarters in London was anxious to keep the problem in perspective. In the year to November 1995, bootlegging accounted for VAT revenue worth nearly £11 million compared to a total take from betting, gaming and the national lottery in the last financial year of more than £1,200 million.

But the most recent annual report from HM Customs & Excise showed that while user receipts from all tobacco products had not declined in 1994/95, those from hand-rolling tobacco and other smoking/chewing tobacco had.

Tobacco seizures at the Eastern Docks that day were all of hand-rolling tobacco — none of cigarettes.

The growth of the problem is such that while the rest of customs is paring down staff (from about 24,500 to about 23,000), the 33 EVOs at Dover are expected to be joined by another 10 colleagues.

A target was set last year of 2,300 seizures from April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996. That target, the officers say, has already been surpassed.

# Eastern bloc is recovering, says European bank

Mark Milner European Business Editor

**E**CONOMIC output in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union is still lagging behind pre-1990 levels, according to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

But this year should see Poland become the first country where post-Communist output surpasses that recorded under the former centrally planned system, and Slovenia is expected to follow suit during 1997.

According to EBRD, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia are among those countries where recovery has brought output within halving distance of pre-1990 levels.

Output in several countries has slumped dramatically, however, with Georgia's economy producing just 17 per cent of its 1989 level. Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and the Ukraine

have output levels running at less than 40 per cent of the 1989 figure.

In its latest transition report, published yesterday, the EBRD — which was set up to help former Communist countries to switch to market-based economies — acknowledges that official figures may paint too bleak a picture.

"It is widely recognised that official GDP (gross domestic product) figures for many countries overstate the output decline that took place in the early years of systemic transition and understate the subsequent recovery."

The EBRD is generally upbeat about the transition process. "The last year saw strong economic growth in eastern Europe and the Baltics and a slowdown of the pace of output decline in the Commonwealth of Independent States," it said.

"There is a good chance that the region is now looking forward to a period of sustained growth and moderate inflation."

## EU shopping guide

Guidance levels on goods bought in the EU for personal use

Cigarettes	800
Cigarillos	400
Cigars	200
Smoking tobacco	1kg
Spirits	10 litres
Fortified wine	20 litres
Beer	90 litres
Wine	110 litres

Not more than 90 litres of the can be sparkling wine. Source: HM Customs & Excise

# Burmah Castrol finds Asia full of liquid gold

Outlook  
Chris Barrie

**B**URMAH Castrol, renowned for its association with Dennis Thatcher and speciality oils for cars usually painted in British Racing Green, indicated yesterday that its future lay in Asian markets.

Announcing a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £253 million on turnover of £2.04 billion, chief executive Jonathan Fry said business in the Asia-Pacific region had gone well. "The economies are bursting with growth."

Hong Kong companies may be considering the implications of the Chinese taking control in 1997, but Burmah Castrol is going flat out to win a 10-15 per cent stake of the Chinese lubricants market.

Step one was to send a team of managers to Hong Kong to set up a regional headquarters, a move that cost Burmah Castrol a hefty increase in managerial overheads. As Mr Fry noted, Hong Kong is more expensive than Wilshire.

Step two was to call a managerial meeting in Beijing. Some 150 managers spent a week considering group strategy at a cost to central overheads of £1.5 million.

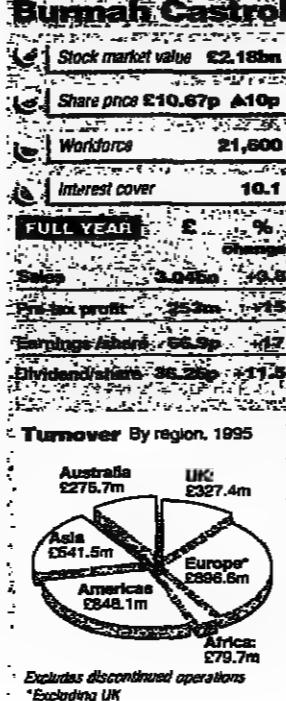
Burmah was at one time as quintessentially English as Rolls-Royce, with which it shared the dubious distinction of being bailed out by the government in the 1970s.

The company now has more than 18 per cent of its total sales in Asia, while the UK accounts for 11 per cent. The rest of Europe provides 30 per cent, and the Americas just over 28 per cent.

Mr Fry's enthusiasm for

Asia is partly due to demand for lubricants: there is nothing like higher volumes for boosting profits, he says. Last year saw the lubricants business turn in a 20 per cent increase in volumes to 2490 million, and a 14 per cent rise in profits to £70.5 million. Earnings would have been higher but for the group's hefty investment in the region.

If Mr Fry has his way, sales of lubricants in Asia should overtake Europe's next year. Shares in the group rose 10p to £10.67 as the City digested the better-than-expected results and the bullish forecasts for Asia-Pacific.



But even while contemplating a 17 per cent increase in earnings per share before exceptional, some City commentators were focusing on the board's warning of "subdued market conditions" in the developed markets of Europe and North America.

Although chairman Lawrence Urquhart promised "further satisfactory progress" in the Castrol lubricants business — with sales of £1.9 billion, the cornerstone of Europe and North America.

Dover's assistant collector, Eric Keen said that if the bootleggers were to be believed, Britain's social fabric

## News in brief

### Mitsubishi invests £131m in Apricot

PRODUCTION of Apricot computers at Glenrothes, near Edinburgh, will increase over the next five years, including the workforce from 300 to 600. In a £131 million investment by Japanese group Mitsubishi. This will also create a further 100 jobs at the company's research and development centre in Birmingham.

Tatsuya Mutoh, general manager of Mitsubishi's information and communications systems group, which bought Apricot in 1990, said the investment would ensure that the company entered the next century as a market leader in personal computer systems.

The factory at Glenrothes will increase production of computers to 500,000 a year as part of plans to raise worldwide output by 400 per cent to an annual 1 million. Apricot is the 12th-biggest seller of computers in the UK, accounting for around 3 per cent of market share. About 80 per cent of the company's sales are in Britain, the majority to business users. — Press Association

### House prices creep up

HOUSE prices are slowly recovering, according to latest figures from the Halifax. Prices in March increased by 1.2 per cent. The figures show the average UK price at £83,210, 1.7 percentage points higher than the same month last year. The average price paid by first-time buyers is £43,131, up 0.2 of a point on last year. The latest increase builds upon last month's figures, which showed the first annual change in more than a year. — Cliff Jones

### Peace profits Ulster TV

ULSTER TV's share of the "peace dividend" helped push up advertising revenue and profits in 1995. This year might not be so easy, John McGuckian, the chairman, warned. "Competitive pressures for both viewers and revenue will increase in 1996 with the arrival of cable and the setting up of Channel 5 in the UK for launch in early 1997. But the arrival in Northern Ireland this year of several major British food retailers will act as a stimulus for further promotional expenditure.

Advertising revenue in 1995 rose from £39.9 million to £32.8 million, helping the group increase its profits by 9.5 per cent to £8.3 million. Ulster had the highest viewing share in ITV, at 42 per cent, for the third year in a row. — Tony May

### Tesco dovetails with B&Q

TESCO has extended the use of its Clubcard loyalty scheme to do-it-yourself retailer B&Q. Tesco shoppers will be able to amass Clubcard points on their purchases at B&Q Supercentres (but not Warehouse outlets) as well as their supermarket shopping. The resulting vouchers and discounts, awarded quarterly, will be cashable only in Tesco stores.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said the scheme followed a joint promotion with the travel agent Lunn Poly which gave shoppers Clubcard points on Thomson holiday purchases. — Roger Cowe

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.

32

MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR  
£17.50 ON OCCASIONAL CALLER

CELLNET

THE NET THAT SETS YOU BACK.

15

minutes maximum for  
£17.63 on talk 15\*

orange

RING 0800 214100 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.

\*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 32 min max of off-peak calls. Hourage reduces when 2 or more calls are made. Talked Successor Caller 9416

سكرا من الامل



Motor Racing

Hill hailed by the chief

Alan Henry sees solid foundations laid in Sao Paulo

DAMON HILL has won the approval of Renault after his commanding victory in the rainy Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos on Sunday...

It is no secret that the French car manufacturer initially felt more than ambivalent about Hill taking over the Williams-Renault's No 3 two years ago...

Two weeks later he bounced off the guard rails on the opening lap of the Monaco Grand Prix, possibly his worst start of his career...

I was very impressed with Damon Hill, from beginning to end with a skilful and wise drive, said the Renault chairman Louis Schweitzer...

But Sunday's success was not simply about Hill's newfound confidence in his new-found confidence in his new-found confidence...

of their main rivals over the past couple of seasons. "I wanted to dominate this weekend if I could, and I think I managed it," said Hill with obvious satisfaction...

However, as Hill surveys his prospects for the rest of the season - and notably the coming weekend's Argentine Grand Prix, which he won last year - he knows that although he holds a healthy 14-point lead on his nearest rivals...

Moreover, he is aware that Sunday's race showed how much thrusting young talent is currently bubbling up through the grand prix ranks...

It must also be food for thought that David Coulthard, who was frequently as fast if not faster than Hill at Williams last season...

Hill would doubtless say that it is to miss the point Nigel Mansell enjoyed an ever more pronounced performance advantage when he surged to the 1992 world championship, and nobody criticised him for that.



Measuring up... Oxford's cox Kristof, 5ft 11in, needed help to stay level with the Cambridge No. 5 Ayer at 6ft 8 1/2in TOM JENKINS

Cambridge scale new heights

Christopher Dodd

CAMBRIDGE are 2-1 on favourites with William Hill for Saturday's Boat Race, with Oxford 6-4. Nevertheless, the Williams-Renault is decisively the best car on the circuit...

quickness at the beginning of the stroke, has given him problems fitting into the Cambridge system, which emphasises the middle and end of the stroke...

Harry Mahon, their finishing coach from New Zealand, flew in yesterday to take over from their chief coach Robin Williams, who has five men from last year's superb reserve crew plus last year's Boat Race stroke Miles Barnett...

running. Oxford, in their second year under the coaching team of Penny Chuter and Daniel Topolski, are much better than last year, a crew of racers including four Americans, one Blue (The President) Rob Clegg, plus the British international Damian West and the former junior international Adam Frost...

Their worth may be tested today by the young Oxford Old Blues, seven of whom are in the Olympic team, including three former presidents: Matthew Pinsent, Johnny Searle and Rupert Obholzer. Oxford's cox Todd Kristof, a Harvard man with four victories over Yale, is possibly the least-sighted steersman to tackle the twisting Putney to Mortlake course since the 1980s dwarf Hart Massey...

1980s dwarf Hart Massey. Kristof is 5ft 11in "with my hair on end" and, at 7st 7 1/2lb, half a stone lighter than Cambridge's Kevin Whyman. Oxford's E J Balfour (Hampton, Durham Univ, 6ft 10in, 13st 5lb) is a former international, and a former junior international Adam Frost...

Nottingham runners and riders with form

Table listing horse racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Folkestone (N.H.)

Table listing horse racing results for Folkestone (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Folkestone (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Folkestone (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Folkestone (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Racing

National bets down - bookies still clean up

Chris Hawkins

ROUGH QUEST might have been the first favourite to win the Grand National for 14 years, but the bookmakers got away virtually scot-free and Hill's report he was a winner for them both ante-post and on the day...

Backing the favourite in the National is not a popular pastime and the once-a-year punters traditionally look for an outsider. Overall betting turnover was down by about 4 per cent, which is in line with the general decline in the National Lottery has got a grip, but over £60 million was still wagered on the event nationwide...

The latter has wintered in Dubai and looked well forward when paraded at Sheikh Mohammed's Al Quoz stables last week. He is not a big colt, but has plenty of quality. He was beaten a neck by Al-Harth when they both made their debut at Newmarket last July, so on the book there is little between them, although physically one would imagine Dick Henry's colt has a decided edge...

Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, said of Mark of Esteem: "It's questionable whether he will stay a mile and a half and we're hopeful rather than confident."

Mick's Love, now another Godolphin colt, won both his races as a two-year-old when trained by Mark Johnston and is rated 25-1 for the Derby. He is big, lengthy sort by Law Society out of a Lutter mare and has good prospects of staying middle-distances. Sheikh Mohammed bought him last autumn and commented last week: "Sometimes I like him, but then he goes up and down. He pleases me then he doesn't."

What one makes of that I am not sure, but Mick's Love looks in prime condition and is sure to win good races this season, even if they are not top class. The 1,000 Guineas, which will again be run on a Sunday, is dominated by the two Newmarket fillies Bosra Sham, the 5-2 favourite, and Blue Duster at 7-2. Bosra Sham, ridden by Tony McEvoy, apparently went well in some weekend work and there still seems to be plenty of confidence behind Henry Cecil's filly. Cecil described her as "something else" last season when he had a number of good fillies and the way she won the Ascot Filly Mile from Bint Shadayid suggests she need only make normal progress to be a formidable opponent this season.

Bint Shadayid is owned by Hamdan Al-Maktoum, who has not been an active supporter of the Godolphin policy until now. But this filly was sent to Dubai for the winter and looks to have improved. She is 7-1 from 8-1 for the Guineas. Hill introduced the French filly Foyale Sante into his Guineas betting at 16-1 following her cantering six-lengths success at Saint Cloud on Friday. A Vore Sante is trained by Criquelette Head, who has won the 1,000 with Hatoot, Ravinella and Ma Biche.

Results

Table listing horse racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Folkestone (N.H.)

Table listing horse racing results for Folkestone (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

Table listing horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Nottingham runners and riders with form

Table listing horse racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

RACELINE advertisement with contact information and a list of names.



Soccer

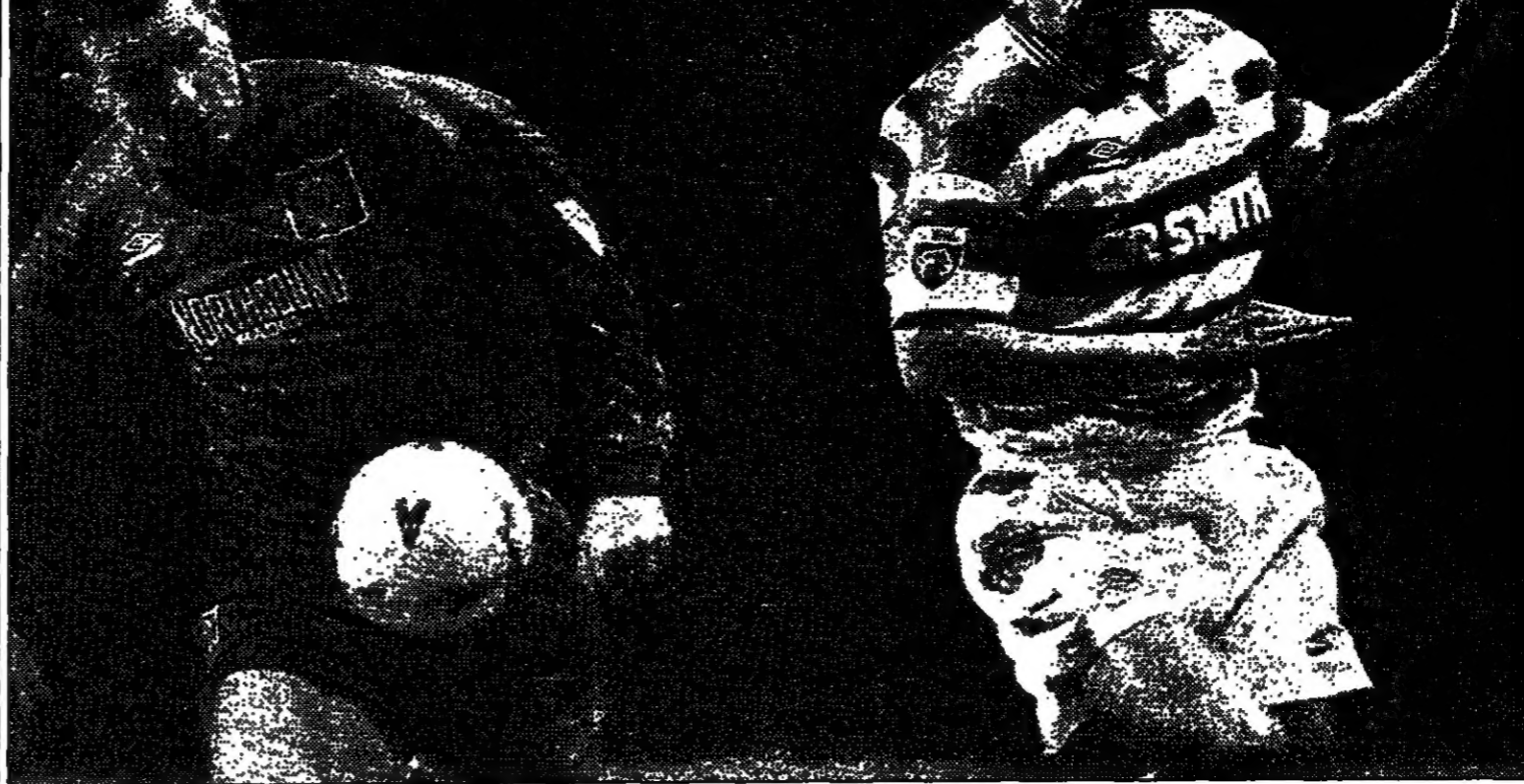
Ticket profiteers punished by FA

Don Best

THE Football Association has imposed its most severe penalties so far on players, officials and supporters whose Cup final tickets last year were sold for up to 35 times their true value...

Manchester City, preparing for Saturday's Maine Road derby against United, have been told that the full-back Scott Hiley will miss the rest of the season after breaking a bone in his foot...

with Holland back there on June 13 when they face Switzerland. Scotland return on June 18, three days after meeting England...



Dancing attention... Van Hooydonk goes through the motions alongside Grant, of Aberdeen, at Parkhead last night

Scottish Premier Division: Celtic 5, Aberdeen 0

Rampaging Celtic take no prisoners Celtic's collective versatility, their ability to interchange at will, was the main problem for Aberdeen...

Wilkinson blast for Brolin

Ian Ross

THE gulf between the Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson and his club's costliest acquisition, Tomas Brolin, appeared to widen yesterday...

"It would be more productive for everyone if he was to stop talking about leaving," said Wilkinson. "I have told him he should be concentrating on the present rather than the future..."

summer departure for a player earning around £15,000 a week at Elland Road. He is already being linked with a return to the Italian club...

Square ball to Square Mile — the way of reckoning

John Duncan and Paul Murphy examine the flotation issue and find four more clubs who may follow Chelsea to the market

THERE was a silent revolution in football yesterday. As Chelsea started trading nine million shares, with a major public flotation to follow...

tion could create an elite within an elite," said a senior executive of one major Premier League club yesterday. "It could mean that a few of the larger clubs, maybe five or six, could realistically gain access to the sort of money it is now possible to raise in this manner..."

investing in football clubs, says: "It can be very difficult to get hard information. Trying to put together a financial profile of the top clubs, which involved asking them for their reports and accounts — public documents — we almost gave up on the likes of Everton and Manchester City..."

money beyond existing shareholders. "What influenced us was the fact that we have found someone who will underwrite our issue to the tune of £2.5 million, so we are guaranteed to raise that," said a club director, Barry Hurst...

Neil Ruddock's place in the Liverpool side to meet Manchester United in the FA Cup final next month is already under threat, writes Ian Ross. The England defender has been suspended for two games, after his booking against Nottingham Forest 10 days ago took him through the 33 disciplinary points barrier...

Garth Griffiths, Port Vale's promising young centre-back, has signed a new two-year deal. The England defender has been suspended for two games, after his booking against Nottingham Forest 10 days ago took him through the 33 disciplinary points barrier...

Garth Griffiths, Port Vale's promising young centre-back, has signed a new two-year deal. The England defender has been suspended for two games, after his booking against Nottingham Forest 10 days ago took him through the 33 disciplinary points barrier...

Sport in brief

han, Britain's Laura Davies faded with a 75 to finish in the peck on 287. The Major Leagues' earliest start to a season this century ran into white-out problems yesterday in Cleveland, where the Indians' game against the New York Yankees was snuffed off...

Baseball

Wales' former WBO European flyweight champion Robbie Wigan will step up in weight to challenge Daniel Jimenez of Puerto Rico for the WBO bantamweight title in Cardiff on April 25...

Boxing

The Great Britain women's Olympic training squad has been called to the final 20, with Tina Cullen, Kath Johnson, Jo Mould and the Scotland goalkeeper Tracey Robb added to the 16 who played in the Olympic qualifying tournament...

Hockey

Wales' former WBO European flyweight champion Robbie Wigan will step up in weight to challenge Daniel Jimenez of Puerto Rico for the WBO bantamweight title in Cardiff on April 25...

Results

Football: Chelsea 1-0 Tottenham, Arsenal 1-0 Liverpool, Manchester United 1-0 Everton. Basketball: Manchester United 85-75 Tottenham, Arsenal 85-75 Liverpool...

Cricket

Sheffield Shield (Australia): Third day Western Australia 220-8 (40 overs) vs Queensland 100-0 (10 overs). South Australia 220-7 (40 overs) vs Queensland 100-0 (10 overs)...

Pools forecast

Saturday, April 6: Chelsea vs Aston Villa, Coventry vs Liverpool, Manchester United vs Tottenham. Sunday, April 7: Chelsea vs Tottenham, Arsenal vs Liverpool...

Teamtalk: The Independent News and Reports Service. Call 0891 33 77+. Arsenal 06 Ipswich Town 18 Sheffield United 15. Aston Villa 11 Leeds United 03 Sheffield Wed. 14. Birm. City 24 Leicester City 05 Southampton 30. Blackburn 21 Liverpool 04 Stoke City 20. Bolton 26 Man. City 02 Sunderland 27. Brentford 24 Man. United 01 Tottenham Hot. 07. Burnley 31 Middlesbrough 23 West Ham 12. Chelsea 08 Middlesbrough 23 Wimbledon 29. Coventry City 17 Newcastle Utd 16 Wolves 29. Derby County 25 Norwich City 18 Celtic 08. Everton 05 Notm. Forest 19 Rangers 10. Hudd. Town 02 QPR 25.

Cricket: Sheffield Shield (Australia): Third day Western Australia 220-8 (40 overs) vs Queensland 100-0 (10 overs). South Australia 220-7 (40 overs) vs Queensland 100-0 (10 overs)...

Fixtures: UEFA Cup: Arsenal vs Borussia Dortmund, Chelsea vs Borussia Dortmund, Liverpool vs Borussia Dortmund. Premier League: Arsenal vs Chelsea, Chelsea vs Tottenham, Tottenham vs Arsenal...

Fixtures: Scottish Premier Division: Celtic vs Aberdeen, Aberdeen vs Celtic. Scottish First Division: Dundee vs Dundee United, Dundee United vs Dundee. Scottish Second Division: Dundee United vs Dundee, Dundee vs Dundee United...

ishmer English

pes rise o

سكنا من الاصل



Rugby Union

Welshmen lured by English clubs

Robert Armstrong

TWO leading players from Wales are the target of English clubs. Bath have offered a contract to Garin Jenkins, Swansea's international hooker, while the Cardiff and former Wales fly-half Lee Jarvis is coming to 24, Harlequins are now the favourites to land Neil Jenkins's understudy.

Members of the senior Wales squad, Twickenham wants to abandon the rule, which applies to players who switch to another country and prevents them from playing until after the waiting period. The WRU will discuss the rule on Thursday. The issue came to a head last month when Harlequins announced they had signed the Neath and Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn.

speeded up its game, concentrating on rucking rather than mauling. "I do not think there is much of a future for me at Cardiff if we continue to play a mauling game. I want to give it everything I have next season. I hope it is with Cardiff, but we have to speed our game up," said Davies, who cost the club £70,000.

Scottish lock banned for record 19 months after cup violence

DAVID MCKENDRICK, the Biggar lock, yesterday received a 19-month ban, the most severe suspension ever meted out by the Scottish Rugby Union.

pension covers 60 playing weeks. The centre Walter Little has been suspended for two Super 12 matches by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union after becoming the first All Black to fail a drugs test.

The 28-year-old Garin Jenkins yesterday admitted he was thinking seriously of joining an English club after six seasons with Swansea. The former coal-miner also received an offer last month from Leeds, the League Four club whose director of rugby is Phil Davies, Jenkins's former international team-mate.



Lean and hungry... Rousseau preparing on site for the London Marathon with a trot around St Katherine's Dock

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Hot-time chaser loves cool London

Duncan Mackay finds the marathon-man Vincent Rousseau checking temperatures

OVER lunch yesterday, Vincent Rousseau indulged in the Englishman's favourite topic of conversation: the weather. "This was not simply polite chitchat but the beginning of his meticulous preparation for this year's Flora London Marathon."

that last year he walked away from a guaranteed appearance fee of \$100,000 (\$68,000). As the Rotterdam Marathon was about to start, the temperature rose to an uncomfortable 70F and Rousseau simply stepped off the start line, to everyone's astonishment. If he had taken only a few steps he would have received his money in full.

in his contract with the London Marathon; he will run regardless of the temperature. He is confident that, given a cool day, he can roll back the stern Mexican challenge of Dionicio Ceron, the winner in 1994 and 1995, and German Silva, together with the British trio of Paul Evans, Eamonn Martin and Gary Staines, who between them will ensure that the 16th running of the race is the most competitive yet.

ners Rousseau is considered slightly strange. Formerly a corporal in the Belgian army for 10 years, he never fired a gun nor had to wear a uniform, but returned to Clivvy Street after being sent to run for them in Nigeria and contracting malaria.

pletting his duties at 15 miles but carried on and finished in fifth place in 2hr 13min 59sec. Five months later he won the Reims Marathon in 2hr 5min 13sec; he was second in Tokyo in February 1994 in 2hr 9min 8sec; and two months later he ran a blistering 2hr 7min 55sec in Rotterdam. Last September he ran the eighth fastest marathon when he finished second in Berlin in 2hr 7min 20sec, making him a serious candidate to break Bekele Demisio's eight-year-old world record of 2hr 6min 50sec.

Rugby League

Hopes rise on Clarke

Paul Fitzpatrick

P HIL CLARKE'S neck injury is not as serious as first thought and there is hope that he will play again, though not this season. The chief executive of his Australian club, Sydney City Roosters, said they had received "the best possible news from the doctors" on the

24-year-old Great Britain and former Wigan forward, who cracked his fourth vertebra in three places when playing against North Queensland in Townsville at the weekend. "Bernie Gurr added: "There is no neurological damage and no permanent damage of any type. We are hopeful that he can play again, which is a far cry from Sunday." Gurr said the Roosters hoped to

have Clarke back next year. Attendances at the European Super League's first six fixtures were the best since opening cover since two-division football returned in 1973. Total attendance was 54,054, an average of 9,009.

Cricket

Waqar glad to see the back of Lamb

WAQAR YOUNIS, the Pakistan pace bowler, yesterday applauded the reluctant retirement of Allan Lamb, the former England batsman, whose accusations of ball-tampering by the Pakistanis soured relations between the sides. Lamb's retirement was announced on Sunday after he refused to bow to Test and County Cricket Board censure of his autobiography, due to be published this summer and sure to contain inflammatory remarks about the 1982 Test series which Pakistan won 2-1.

Snooker

Morgan has no time to celebrate

DARREN MORGAN'S elation at winning his first major title, the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters just after midnight on Sunday, was tempered by having to wake up before seven o'clock the next morning. He had to catch an early-morning flight on a six-seat plane from Dublin to Exeter to begin his challenge for the British Open at Plymouth Pavilions yesterday afternoon, and he was relieved to see a hard-fought 5-3 victory over Stefan Mazrocks, the world No. 72 from Leicester.

Ice Hockey

Guildford opt-out fans the flames

DOUBTS continue to haunt plans for the introduction of the new Superleague next September, with confirmation that the Guildford Flames, one of its founder members, will not take part. But the new, mature Super League will retain the franchise granted 10 days ago and hope to enter at a later date, claiming the delay will "allow sufficient time to produce a competitive team".

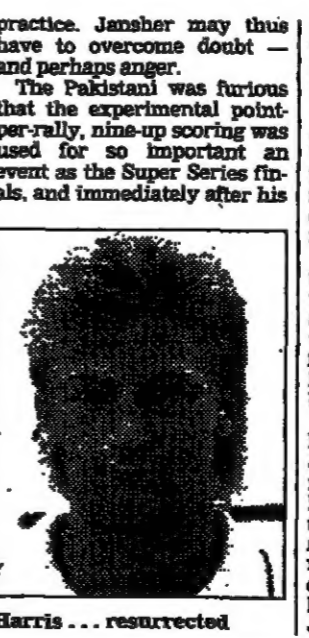
Squash

Del boy matures for the Open

Richard Jago on the one-time wimp in with a chance of beating Jansher again

DEL HARRIS, billed while a teenager as the future Jonah Barrington, came in under the pressure and threatened to throw away his talent in an excess of drinking and partying. But the new, mature Del boy has so effectively resurrected himself as a player that there are high hopes of him becoming the first home-based man to win the British Open since Barrington almost 25 years ago.

sponsored tournament in Cardiff? Well, Harris just might, having done so 11 days ago. Once denounced as a wimp by some Australians for ballooning to two stone overweight and falling so far in the rankings that he needed to qualify for tournaments, Harris amazingly inflicted upon Jansher his first PSA circuit defeat for two years.



Harris... resurrected

practice. Jansher may thus have to overcome doubt — and perhaps anger. The Pakistani was furious that the experimental point-per-rally, nine-up scoring was used for so important an event as the Super Series finals, and immediately after his

Big-noise Hill turns Power off

ANTHONY HILL, the Australian who has been banned from playing for his country again until 2001, survived a long, argumentative match of his return from a four-month suspension at the Leekes British Open in Cardiff, writes Richard Jago.

Golf

Montgomerie second best but fighting fit

David Davies, in Ponte Vedra, Florida, on mixed fortunes in the Players Tournament

AS SOON as Colin Montgomerie heard the roar, he knew almost, but not exactly, what had happened. He was walking to the 15th tee of the Tournament Players Club in the final round of the Players Championship and, although he was over 500 yards away from the source, the sheer volume of the noise told him that Freddie Couples had eagled the 16th.

in the 1992 US Masters. On that occasion Couples had hit a poor tee shot at the short 12th and it had seemed certain to finish in Rae's Creek in front of the green. It had pitched on the bank, had started to roll towards the water and then, against all the laws of gravity, stopped.

and my ball got wet, unfortunately." But he has now played in two tournaments this season, both with strong fields, and finished first in Dubai and now second. The super-slimline Montgomerie, 33th already gone and going weekly, was asked if his results justified his fitness regime and he said they did. "I have always wanted to play this game a little bit fitter than I was before and it's proving its worth already."

There was also criticism of the Superleague concept from Mike Blaisdell, the coach of the Nottingham Panthers, the club beaten in Sunday's British Championship final and still being wooed by the new league's organisers, who include Sir John Hall, owner of the Durham Wasps. "Some of the head houches making the big decisions are going to have to make some smart ones," he said.

For Couples had taken a two-iron from some 250 yards out, hit it with just a little too much fade and had seen the ball plummet straight at the lake on the right. Then he had seen it, quite remarkably, bounce hard left over a hummock and roll forward on to the fringe of the green. Instead of having to take a penalty drop he had a 35-foot eagle putt, which he holed.

Montgomerie, far from eagling the 16th himself, failed to answer the challenge. He hit a good drive and, he said afterwards, realised that he had to go for the green in two. "I took it on

and my ball got wet, unfortunately." But he has now played in two tournaments this season, both with strong fields, and finished first in Dubai and now second. The super-slimline Montgomerie, 33th already gone and going weekly, was asked if his results justified his fitness regime and he said they did. "I have always wanted to play this game a little bit fitter than I was before and it's proving its worth already."

For Couples this was his first win in the United States since 1994 and, given his recent back troubles, an obvious relief. After Sunday he knows that he can compete at the highest level again, and he could be a threat at Augusta next week — if he has not already used up his luck.



Renault warms to Damon Hill, page 13  
The Marathon's hottest tip, page 15

FA jumps on Cup ticket profiteers, page 14  
Bath and Richmond look to Wales, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## LIVERPOOL AND VILLA BLAME £38 TICKETS FOR MASSIVE SEMI-FINAL SNUB



And then there were none... row upon row of empty seats at Old Trafford on Sunday bear silent witness to a pricing policy that backfired in a big way. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

# Case of the missing thousands

**Martin Thorpe on a lukewarm response by the FA to the outcry over Cup tickets**

THE Football Association has ordered a partial review of ticket pricing after 10,400 fans snubbed the Old Trafford FA Cup semi-final in protest at the cost of admission. However, the FA is refusing to lower the top semi-final ticket price of £38 which was criticised by both competing teams, Liverpool calling it "excessive" and Aston Villa "far too much". "We see nothing wrong with the prices," said the FA's spokesman Steve Double. "But we may, however, have to review the structure of the banding at certain venues."

final tickets were placed in the highest price bands of £30 and £38. At the less well appointed Villa Park, venue of the other semi-final, it was 67 per cent, leaving a higher percentage of tickets available at £22 and £14. The unequal distribution was reflected in the ticket take-ups. Liverpool, allocated 23,500, returned 6,000 tickets unsold, most of them £38 — the first time the Anfield club have failed to sell out an FA Cup semi-final, other than a replay. Of Villa's 23,004, 4,400 went unsold, almost all at £38. But Chelsea sold all their allocation of 18,500, and of Manchester United's 19,000 only 700 went unsold, all at £38, the first time United have not sold out a semi-final other than a replay. Liverpool's chief executive Peter Robinson had already planned to write to the FA to complain. "We are saying we

consider the prices excessive. Lots of fans have shown their feelings by not buying tickets. A price of £38 is more than double the average price for a league game at Liverpool. People do expect to pay more at a semi-final, but not that much." Villa's secretary Steve Stride agreed. "The top price is far too much," he said. "There should be more tickets at the lower end." By comparison, tickets for the two Scottish Cup semi-finals, both at Hampden Park and one involving Rangers and Celtic, are priced at only £13 and £14. The FA's answer of a partial review of prices has not satisfied the Football Supporters' Association. "It is not addressing the problem," said its chairman Tim Crabbe. "The fact is, £38 is clearly too much. Not many people can afford it and just because there are some wealthy supporters who can does not make it fair. "Fans know they are being held to ransom and many will still pay, but people can't keep

forking out. Sunday showed that point has been reached." In January the FSA presented a document, entitled *The Price Ain't Right*, to the FA, Premier League and Football League and it will be discussed by all four at a meeting at the end of this month. It accuses the authorities of double standards, in implementing the Taylor report by building all-seat stadiums but ignoring another finding that "it should be possible to plan a price structure which suits the cheapest seats to those presently paying to stand". Admission prices are also a subject of controversy at England games. Last Wednesday's friendly with Bulgaria attracted a crowd of 29,708. Many people have asked why, when the FA knew the game was not very attractive, it did not adopt a marketing strategy to increase the attendance — and thereby the atmosphere — by reducing prices and letting children in free or at cut-price. There are two more England friendlies at Wembley to come before the European Championship, but Double said: "There are no immediate plans to change things at the moment. We would hope the crowds pick up for the World Cup qualifying games after Euro '96."

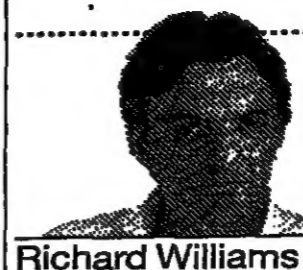
One club at the forefront of innovative pricing and incentives to attract fans is Charlton, whose average gate has risen to more than 10,000 since they began their strategy last season. Their secretary Chris Parkes cannot understand the FA's attitude. "They should have looked at

that game and thought it's not Brazil or Scotland, so we will dramatically reduce the prices and encourage the children to come. Then a parent has to come." Each club in this season's FA Cup final will receive 25,500 tickets, the same split as last year.

### Is the price right?

- West End musical**  
Ticket to see *Cats*, Oliver - £10-£30. No concessions for children.
- Rock concert**  
Larry Kravitz at Wembley - £16; Donna Summer at Albert Hall £17.50-£25.
- Symphony concert**  
(Birmingham Symphony Hall)  
Simon Rattle and the CBO: £9.50-£30. No concessions.
- Alton Towers**  
Day ticket £17.50 (children 4-13 £13.50).
- Foot match at Luton**  
£15-£27 per day. (Juvettes £8 with an adult in a £15 seat).
- Cinema**  
Odeon Leicester Sq: £7.50-£9. (Children £4-6).  
Odeon, Manchester: £4 (Children £2.70).
- League match at Liverpool**  
£9.50 (Children £6). Standing £7.50 (Children £4). Family enclosure adult plus two children £10.50.

## One delights but the other desires



Richard Williams

TO ONE, it meant the chance of adding a final adornment to a career oversuffed with honours. To the other, nothing less than his identity was at stake. And on that distinction depended the result of one of the best FA Cup semi-finals anybody can remember. Is it too simple to say that Manchester United beat Chelsea because Eric Cantona wanted the victory more than Ruud Gullit did? I don't think so. Which is no criticism of the loser, because the difference between them was not one of talent or commitment. It was a question of significance. Gullit is a very welcome visitor to English football, but he is now playing on the pitches where Cantona rediscovered his talent and his appetite for the game, where his fulfillment began. And where he endured, without self-pity, a singularly horrible ordeal.

England and its football mean something unique in Cantona's life. He may have come here four years ago with a shrug in his shoulders, but he will not be leaving that way. Meanwhile he guards his eminence with a pride that was clear in every moment at Villa Park. "I know that the game is not going to be resolved by two players only," Gullit had said last week when asked about their appearance on the same pitch, trying to play down the hype. He was wrong. Billed as the day's central characters, Gullit and Cantona were the heart and soul of their teams, the examples of style and virtue. The whole unflagging narrative was built around them. In Steve Bruce's absence, Cantona again took over the captaincy of United. This might appear a strange decision to those seeing only an aloof, remote figure who has held himself incommunicado since the events of January 25 1995. Even before that, Cantona gave the impression of being a loner. Kevin Sharp, who played with him at Auxerre and Leeds, once described a man "always on his own, reading a book or staring out of the window". But his moment of indiscretion at Selhurst Park also cost him the captaincy of the French national team, and in that context his friend Gerard Houllier, now the technical director of the French football federation, spoke of a captain who "went from room to room, playing cards, listening to music... he wasn't just hidden away in his corner. And he was very helpful with the younger players." The image is of an individualist, but he's totally the opposite of that, believe me. He's very concerned with collective play and collective work. He's not a selfish player. "Scuff! Proud? To a fault. And let us not forget that Cantona has won nothing since the double of 1993-94. His return from that eight-month suspension will not be complete until there is something new in the trophy cabinet to prove that he is every bit the player he was before, and maybe something more besides. The destiny of this year's championship is out of his hands; no matter how many matches his goals decide in United's favour, the title is Newcastle's to win or lose. But the FA Cup is there for whoever brings to it the greatest desire, and that is what we saw on Sunday. Early in the game, he made several uncharacteristic mistakes. Short passes were misplaced, longer ones mistimed. And that, paradoxically, was the evidence of his keenness: there at last were the signs of the nerves to which the stern face never admits.

HIS limbs do not flow like Gullit's. He does not caress the ball with such gentleness that it seems to be made of fluff. His stiff, straight-backed carriage and his dancer's played feet are good subjects for caricature, but too individual for straightforward emulation. Yet his inimitable volley on to the post in the first half was a moment of magnificent virtuosity, balanced in the second period by a very different contribution: when did we last see such an example of commitment as his header off the line to save Peter Schmeichel from the consequences of John Spencer's furious drive? Come to that, who else would be shrewd and generous enough to realise that if poor Andy Cole were ever going to score again, he would need to be put in possession no more than a yard from the goal line, and even then presented with a ball already on its way into the net? Ruud Gullit added to our fond memories of his illustrious skills on Sunday. He can stay as long as he likes. But for Eric Cantona, England has another meaning. This is where he lives.

## Southgate blow for Venables

TWO defenders England hope will figure in this year's European Championship face a fight to convince the coach Terry Venables of their fitness. Aston Villa's Gareth Southgate may miss the rest of the season with damaged knee ligaments, and Gary Pallister of Manchester United may not be fit before the FA Cup final on May 11, a month before England's opening game against Switzerland. The versatile, 25-year-old Southgate hopes to be fit for Euro '96. After being injured in the FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool on Sunday he said: "There are only five weeks left of the season and it is not looking very optimistic in terms of playing again. That would be a major blow with Euro '96 coming up." Pallister has missed United's last six games with a back problem and Venables

"hasn't a clue" if the 30-year-old will figure in his plans. United's manager Alex Ferguson says he will do everything in his power to get Pallister to Wembley "for club and country".



Southgate... still hoping

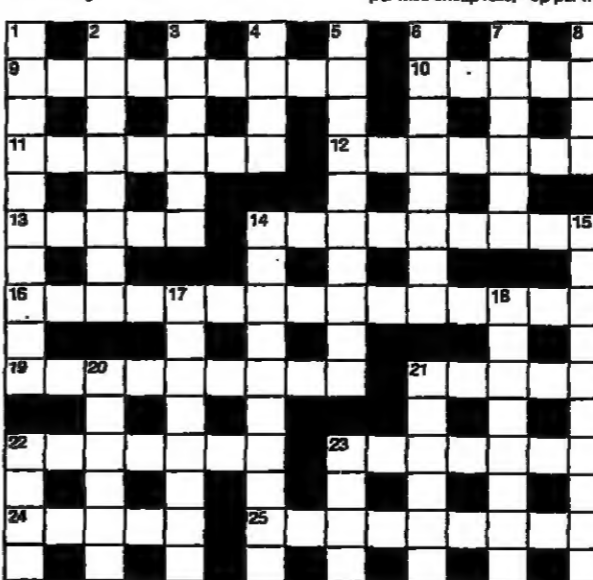
**French multi-media artist Orlan will begin the final stage of her ten Year Project, The Reincarnation Of Saint Orlan. Surgeons will construct the largest nose her face is capable of holding.**

**Louise Gray G2 page 8**

## Guardian Crossword No 20,616

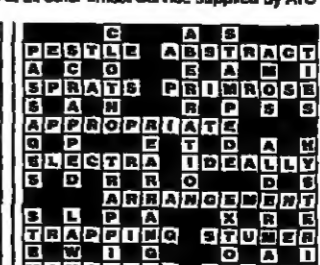
Set by Paul

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 826. Calls cost 99p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT&T



- Across**
- 9 Language of Spain near to becoming incomprehensible (9)
  - 10 21st C's Castle wrote, perhaps, for convenience? (5,9)
  - 11 It sounds rough in Greater London? (7)
  - 12 Fish finger without hesitation passed round — it's sensational! (7)
  - 13 Military framework in America, dreadful (5)
  - 14 The magnitude of generosity around the north-west (9)
  - 16 Host: "With Ceres and Saturn (poles apart), I composed 'The Planets'" (10,5)
  - 19 Model paid zero for stripping, (regular shape) (9)
  - 21 It's urban, either way (5)
  - 22 Whacking my French master, (being unqualified) (7)
  - 23 Awakening, the start of

- drinking session having been forgotten (7)
  - 24 I haven't a clue for 'horse' — may (5)
  - 25 The heart of Japan without staple diet? How wonderfully absurd! (9)
- Down**
- 1 Former Yugoslavian corroborates alternative, without an alternative (5-5)
  - 2 Scattered barley, potatoes, etc., rotated around year one (9)
  - 3 Oxford and Cambridge, it's said, progress smoothly (6)
  - 4 Catchpole in drag (4)
  - 5,6 Dogs and birds as speakers (7,3,8)
  - 7 Priest wears a mark of authority (8)
  - 8 Unpleasant discovery in beef rogan josh? (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,616

- 14 Stone print made of hard opal — right? (10)
- 15 Graf losing initially in strategic game, and stunned (10)
- 17 One's charged with having to choose Reagan (8)
- 18 I made my bed around five and got dressed (8)
- 20 Feeling sleepy? Head off for the shade (6)
- 21 see 10ac.
- 22 Manufactured in 11 East (4)
- 23 Desirous of Michelangelo's work, though not at first (4)

**Solution tomorrow**

**ORANGE ONLY GIVE YOU HALF AS MUCH AIRTIME FOR YOUR MONEY. (BUT HEY, THEIR BILLS ARE TWICE AS LONG.)**

**60** minutes maximum for £29.38 on talk 60\*  
**orange**

**125** MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR £28.44 ON REGULAR CALLER PLUS\*  
**CELLNET**

1199-8888 24 HOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE

\*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 125 min max of off-peak calls. Message reduces when peak-time calls are made. Telecom Services Cellular Radio.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

vitro v  
Majo  
seals  
Euro  
leai

Inside